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House works State Security Court law

AMMAN (Pena) — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday approved the State Security Court law after amending a paragraph in it. The House will resume debating the law next Sunday. The House, which met under the chairmanship of Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyeh and in the presence of Prime Minister Tawfiq Murr and several ministers, decided to refer temporary law No. 11 for the year 1980 to its legal committee. The law was returned to the House by the Upper House Thursday morning under the chairmanship of Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and in the presence of Cabinet members to discuss several draft laws. The Lower House's Foreign Affairs Committee will also meet Thursday morning to discuss the political situation in the Soviet Union. The Parliamentary Investigation Committee will also meet Saturday.

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Palestinian university to reopen

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel has allowed the largest Palestinian university in the occupied territories to reopen, 44 months after it was closed down, a university official said Wednesday. "Defence Minister (Moshe) Arens told us we can resume studies," said Dr. Ahmad Al-Najjar, secretary of the Al Najjar university's board of trustees. Al Najjar is the largest of six Arab universities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip closed in a major crackdown at the start of the Palestinian uprising in December 1987. Four have reopened since June last year. Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip closed businesses and stayed away from jobs Wednesday to commemorate an arson attack 23 years ago which severely damaged the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem's Old City. An Australian was arrested for the 1968 arson.

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Gorbachev back in power

Coup leaders flee; West hails Yeltsin for resistance

Combined agency despatches

THE COUP AGAINST Mikhail S. Gorbachev collapsed Wednesday. Coup leaders fled the capital, and military units deployed after the takeover withdrew.

Rejoicing crowds cheered and waved flags outside the Russian Parliament, which served as the headquarters for Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who led coup resistance since Monday. Soldiers, their tanks strewn with flowers, waved at television cameras.

Leaders of the national legislature invalidated all decrees made by the coup leaders, national lawmaker Yuri Karyakin told the Russian legislature. He gave no details about the vote.

"The President of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR ruled on the removal of President Mikhail Gorbachev from his constitutional duties and their transfer to the vice-president was illegal," TASS said, quoting a presidential declaration.

Mr. Gorbachev himself said in a

statement read on state-run television Wednesday night that he was "in full control of the situation," and will resume "full execution of his duties in the next 24 hours."

Mr. Gorbachev credited "decisive actions of the democratic forces of the country" for felling the coup against him.

The statement was read by an announcer. Mr. Gorbachev did not appear on television.

Mr. Gorbachev said he spoke with Mr. Yeltsin, and the leaders of Kazakhstan, the Ukraine, Byelorussia and Uzbekistan, according to the statement.

"They all denounced the attempted state coup, which was prevented as a result of decisive actions of the democratic forces of the country," the statement said.

"They understood that no anti-constitutional actions were supported by the supreme authorities or the people of the republics. Announcements were expressed that the perpetrators would be held fully and completely responsible for their unlawful actions," the Gorbachev statement said.

With the coup's demise, the Communist Party moved to salvage its own credibility. It called the takeover unconstitutional and demanded a



Mikhail Gorbachev

meeting with Mr. Gorbachev, the party chief, the state-run news agency TASS said. The party renounced any connection with the coup leaders.

The Soviet prosecutor also opened a criminal investigation into the actions of the eight men who staged the 59-hour-long coup, TASS reported. It quoted the prosecutor's office as saying the junta's actions "contain signs of a state crime."

Mr. Gorbachev's whereabouts and

health had been the subject of widespread discussion since Communist hardliners began their coup Monday, saying he could not govern because of health problems.

The president's statement credited his backers with overturning the coup plotters.

"They all denounced the attempted state coup, which was prevented as a result of decisive actions of the democratic forces of the country," the statement said.

Word of Mr. Gorbachev's return came from Lev Y. Sukhanov, a long-time Yeltsin deputy. He said Mr. Gorbachev was flying from his vacation retreat in the Crimea to the Soviet capital with Vladimir Ivashko, the deputy general-secretary of the Communist Party and other aides.

U.S. President George Bush said that Mr. Gorbachev was once again in charge of the Soviet government, having been told so by the Soviet leader in a telephone call.

Mr. Bush said Mr. Gorbachev was "calling the shots."

The news of the coup leaders' departure — and Mr. Gorbachev's planned return — followed a series of rapid developments pointing to the disintegration of the takeover, one of the most tumultuous events in recent Soviet history.



Boris Yeltsin

TASS reported that the Soviet defence ministry decided to withdraw the thousands of tanks and troops that had poured into Moscow to enforce emergency decrees after the takeover Monday.

Tanks and armoured personnel carriers were seen moving away from the Russian parliament. A four-kilometre-long column of about 180 tanks and 60 trucks was heading out of Moscow, kicking up huge clouds of

dust. The soldiers on board said they were returning to their base.

In Brussels, NATO chief Manfred Womersley, who spoke with Mr. Yeltsin by telephone, said the Russian president had taken over the powers of the armed forces chief in Mr. Gorbachev's absence.

Radio and television broadcasts that were banned during the takeover reappeared on the air, and TASS said a decree shutting independent publications was being lifted as of Wednesday.

Even before the announcement that the ban was being lifted, state-run media dropped the previous official line on the takeover and began reporting the unfolding events.

An announcer on Soviet television broke into a broad smile after reading a report calling the coup leaders dangerous. "I'm sorry comrades, but I'm very excited," he said.

Mr. Gorbachev's foreign minister, Alexander Bessmertnykh, who had dropped out of sight during the coup, reappeared and called the takeover a page in Soviet history that "has got to be turned."

At a news conference, he promised that reforms would continue and that Moscow would honour its international commitments.

Thousands of people had kept up

their vigil at the Russian parliament building following overnight clashes with Soviet troops that left at least four dead. They roared their approval when the announcement of the coup committee's departure came over a loudspeaker.

Four of them were killed overnight during clashes with Soviet troops. The plane reportedly carrying the coup leaders heading to Bishkek, formerly called Frunze, according to Radio Russia, which speaks for Mr. Yeltsin. There was no word on why the coup leaders would travel to the capital of Kirgizia, 3,380 kilometres southeast of Moscow in Central Asia.

Sources at the airport told the Associated Press that only KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov was on a plane, which they said was headed to the Crimea. He reportedly was accompanied by Communist Party leader Vladimir Iushchikov.

The discrepancies could not immediately be clarified.

A delegation of European ambassadors and top diplomats, including the U.S. charge d'affaires, had assembled at a Moscow airport in hope of flying to the Crimea to meet with Mr. Gorbachev.

Failure of the coup could deal a fatal blow to any organised, high-level effort to thwart reform drives.

Despite the show of force, the coup leaders had been unable to dislodge Mr. Yeltsin from the Russian parliament, where he rallied the opposition. Neither were they able to enforce the curfew or prevent nationwide demonstrations.

The state of emergency was declared Monday after hardline elements in the military and Communist Party ousted Mr. Gorbachev, declaring he was ill. Few believed it.

On Tuesday, hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated against the coup in Moscow, Leningrad, Khabarovsk and other cities; and coal miners went on strike in Siberia.

The Soviet embassy in London was one of the first to announce the coup had failed and the state of emergency declared on Monday had been lifted. "The people proved to be the real masters of their own destiny," an embassy official told the Press Association news agency.

As events unfolded rapidly in the Soviet capital, Western leaders who had called for Mr. Gorbachev to be restored to power voiced optimism.

The leaders of the coup "underestimated the power of the people, underestimated what a taste of freedom and democracy brings," Mr.

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Britain might build a 'Stealth' fighter

LONDON (R) — Work on a British "Stealth" warplane to replace Harrier jump jets and Tornados fighters and bombers might begin within five years, Jane's Defence Weekly reported Wednesday. The authoritative magazine said the project would be the "logical and ultimate outcome" of a British "stealth" study conducted by the Ministry of Defence.

The study, which was part of a broader effort to develop a new generation of fighters, was led by the Royal Air Force's Strategic Studies Centre.

The study found that a stealth fighter would be able to penetrate enemy air defences and strike targets with precision.

The study also found that a stealth fighter would be able to operate in a variety of environments, from low altitude to high altitude.

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Shamir hopeful peace conference in October

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said after the Soviet coup collapsed Wednesday that he now hoped a superpower-sponsored Middle East peace conference would take place in October as planned.

Asked if the conference could take place on time despite the uncertainty in the Soviet Union, Mr. Shamir told reporters: "It's hard to say at the moment. They have a lot to do today but I hope it will come."

Mr. Shamir, in his first remarks on the three-day coup, said: "It's hard to say at this moment what will happen in the Soviet Union in the coming days. I hope that new obstacles won't crop up. I don't want to speculate. I hope the Soviet Union will fulfil a positive and helpful role."

U.S. President George Bush said Tuesday the peace conference was in doubt after the temporary ousting of President Mikhail Gorbachev. The Soviet Union is due to co-sponsor the meeting.

Israeli army radio reported Wednesday that Secretary of State James Baker had sent Mr. Shamir a telegram saying he would continue working for Arab-Israeli peace talks.

In Tunisia, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said the October peace conference was now "in doubt" because of the turmoil in the Soviet Union.

The coup that toppled President Mikhail Gorbachev Monday and the ensuing confusion and violence in the Soviet Union are "of a nature to put in question the preparations in progress for the peace process in the Middle East," said Abbas Zaki, a member of the central committee of

Fateh. "The situation is now suspended in the Middle East and consequently the peace process could be revised due to the changes in the Soviet Union," Mr. Zaki told reporters.

In Egypt, another senior PLO official Wednesday ruled out compromise on the organisation's position on East Jerusalem Palestinians.

"Palestinians from East Jerusalem must participate in peace negotiations," said Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee. "There can be no concession on this."

Israel has agreed to participate in peace talks on condition that the Palestinian delegation include no PLO members or residents of East Jerusalem.

Mr. Abbas spoke to reporters after conferring with Egypt's foreign minister, Amr Musa.

Other Palestinian officials took a similar line in recent weeks, but Mr. Abbas stated the PLO position more forcefully.

Despite its displeasure with the PLO's support of Iraq, Egypt is coordinating with the organisation on the proposed peace conference.

Mr. Abbas has been the PLO's principal interlocutor with Egypt since the Gulf war ended last February. President Hosni Mubarak has made clear in public statements that Mr. Arafat is unwelcome in Cairo.

"No one can ask for more concessions from the Palestinians on essential issues such as Jerusalem... but I advise (them) to put the onus of rejection on Shamir," Mr. Mubarak told the Egyptian magazine Al Masawwar

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U.N. chemical inspector says Iraq cooperative

BAGHDAD (R) — A team of U.N. experts wrapped up an inspection tour of Iraqi chemical weapons sites Wednesday saying Iraq had cooperated fully and was working out ways of destroying its bombs and warheads.

Team leader Jean Paul Perot of France attributed Iraqi helpfulness to an urgent need for permission to resume production of chemicals such as chlorine, which is used for water purification as well as weapons-making.

"They gave us many plans, much information and they have very good cooperation with the inspection team," he told reporters.

The Security Council has linked a full lifting of a year-old U.N. trade blockade to compliance with its Gulf war ceasefire terms, which include declaring and scrapping all weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Perot and his 21-member team, which leaves Thursday, saw 6,420 small rockets with chemical warheads and 200 mustard gas bombs during their six-day visit.

He said they had found no inconsistencies between Iraq's declarations and what they had seen.

Mr. Perot said Iraq had asked for permission to turn chemical weapons production plants into arms destruction plants.

"They are working out ways of destroying the ammunition. They have asked us to use the installations not destroyed during the war for this," he told reporters Tuesday.

"I believe they have entered a phase where they are applying the resolution," he said. "We

found nothing that was camouflaged during our inspections."

Mr. Perot, whose inspections included production and storage sites, said Iraq was keen to put the issue of its chemical weapons programme behind it because it urgently needed to reopen chemical plants for civilian needs.

"I think the Iraqis have a large need for chemical products such as chlorine, pesticides and insecticides," he said.

The team inspected sites near Habaniya airport, 70 kilometres west of Baghdad, and the town of Samarra, 60 kilometres to the north of Habaniya.

Mr. Perot described one storage site at Mutana near Samarra as a chemical dustbin.

The heat of the Iraqi summer and impurities in the chemicals used in the warheads meant they were unstable and possibly difficult to handle.

Mr. Perot said another team of chemical inspectors would arrive in Iraq at the end of August to continue preparations for the destruction of the weapons.

Their job would include assessing the safest way to handle the warheads, which will be destroyed by Iraqis under U.N. supervision. Future teams will also inspect other storage sites.

U.N. teams visiting Iraq to inspect its germ warfare and missile capabilities have also described officials as cooperative.

The latest team looking for evidence of a nuclear weapons programme said Iraqi officials allowed them to see whatever sites they wanted but could be quicker in giving full answers to questions.

Developments in USSR purely internal Soviet affair — Ensour

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The foreign minister, Dr. Abdullah Ensour, said Wednesday that what is happening in the Soviet Union is a purely internal affair for the Soviet people to deal with, but that according to information available to the government Moscow is still committed to co-sponsoring the Middle East peace conference convened for October.

"We look at the developments there as a purely internal affair and naturally our reaction stops at that," Dr. Ensour said.

"From information that we have, however, Moscow is still committed to holding the conference as planned."

In an interview with the Jordan Times on Wednesday morning, (before reports said the Soviet coup against President Mikhail Gorbachev had fizzled out), the foreign minister stressed that conclusive predictions could not be made before things became clearer on the situation in the Soviet Union and its relationship with the co-sponsor of the peace conference, the United States.

"There could be a freeze on relations between the two co-sponsors and member that all the proposals were made (on the understanding) that there will be two sponsors for the conference," Dr. Ensour said.

"If one of the two sponsors is not interested, or is busy or is probably playing against (the other) that will of course affect the situation."

In answer to a question on the results of his Majesty King Hussein's visit to Syria and his talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Dr. Ensour said that the two leaders "discussed, with more detail, the peace conference: Not only the principle but the operation itself, what, how, when, through whom and what kind of pooling of common (Arab) efforts."

Dr. Ensour confirmed that Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat is expected in Amman early next week and said he expected that there would be "substance" in talks between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides.

"I don't know what Chairman Arafat will carry in his briefcase. It is left to him to propose or to refrain from proposing plans of action. I am sure that he has something to say, to announce or to ask," Dr. Ensour said.

Following is the full text of the interview with the foreign minister: Q: What is Jordan's feeling on Soviet changes and would Jordan prefer a status quo?

A: We have no preferences as far as the situation in the Soviet Union. We look at the developments there as a purely internal affair and naturally our reaction stops at that. What we would like to see is the stability and the security of the region and we hope that the Soviet Union will find a solution for what is going on and a very fast one... any extreme development would result in repercussions that we do not want to see in terms of conflict and dash.

Q: Is Jordan worried that this

change of government (in the Soviet Union) would affect the peace process and in what way?

A: We don't think this will affect the peace process. The change in government there does not have its origins in the Middle East. The Middle East was not (a contributing) part of the decision-making on the change of government. So we think the peace conference that has been proposed will continue and I don't think that a change is coming.

Q: Is there concern that perhaps this might shift the focus away from the Middle East or delay the holding of the conference? Washington also has not recognised the existing Soviet government. How could they co-sponsor a conference under such circumstances?

A: That is possible. That is very possible. As a matter of fact there were signals from Washington that the American administration is (keen) to see the conference held on schedule. We did not hear from the new administration in the Soviet Union but we heard over the news that there were assurances that there is no change of policy as to the conference on the part of the Soviets. How good the news is, I am not very sure. As I said our sources were non-Soviet, they were from other parts of the world.

Q: Is there any concern that the new Soviet leadership would try to change the parameters (for holding the conference)?

A: There could be freezing in relations between the two co-sponsors

and remember that all the proposals were made (on the understanding) that there will be two sponsors. If one is not interested or is busy or is probably playing against (the other)... that of course will affect the situation. From information that we have, however, Moscow appears to be still committed to holding the conference as planned. But that will be left to the coming days to see how.

Q: On the King's visit to Syria, what were the points that Jordan and Syria agreed upon regarding the peace process?

A: This is not the first contact (between Jordan and Syria) on the peace process. We have always been in contact over the phone and there were direct meetings between the two leaders. At these meetings the two leaders talked about the principles, the possibility of attending, the acceptance (of the peace proposal). But now that Syria has accepted (the American proposal) and that the Palestinians are on their way to making their own decisions, it is natural that the two leaders should meet and discuss with more detail the peace process itself. That is to say not only the principle but the operation itself: What, how, when, through whom and what kind of pooling the common (Arab) efforts. The most important result is that they have asked the two ministers of foreign affairs to have a hotline between them and to meet as the need necessitates and this will take place.

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Mubarak wants qualified lifting of Iraq sanctions

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak, chief among Arab leaders aligned against Iraq in the Gulf crisis, now wants economic sanctions against Iraq lifted for the good of the Iraqi people.

But he said in remarks published Wednesday that the move should come only after world leaders devise checks on Iraq's "ambitions."

The interview with the state-owned magazine Al Masawwar reflected a turnaround in Mr. Mubarak's support for sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August last year.

Sanctions were maintained even after a U.S.-led international military coalition drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait in February.

While proposing removal of sanctions to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people, Mr. Mubarak stood by his refusal to do business with President Saddam Hussein.

"How can I deal with him after he stabbed me in the back?" Mr. Mubarak asked. "He promised me not to attack Kuwait and he did."

"But we strongly sympathise with the Iraqi people in their present ordeal resulting from the miscalculations of their leadership."

Iraqi officials say shortages of

food and other commodities caused by sanctions have killed thousands of Iraqi civilians since the war ended.

Egypt feels obligated to help the Iraqis, Mr. Mubarak said.

"We are striving to ease the impact of economic sanctions on the Iraqi people. We are for the lifting of these sanctions," he said.

"It would not be difficult for the world community to agree on adequate guarantees that would prevent the squandering of Iraq's resources on projects which serve only the ambitions of its leader."

Mr. Mubarak said his concern for the welfare of the Iraqi people also was behind his opposition to suggestions that the United States and other Western allies mount air strikes to destroy Iraq's nuclear facilities.

He said he conveyed this position to President George Bush through Secretary of State James Baker on the secretary's visit to Egypt last month during a Middle East tour.

Mr. Mubarak said all Egyptian troops in Kuwait will be back home by the end of this month.

Top official Tuesday to help end the international economic sanctions.

Israelis expand settlers' enclave in Hebron city

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israel has expanded a Jewish enclave in this West Bank city, moving mobile homes into a former Arab bus terminal in Hebron's market place.

The move came despite calls by the United States that Israel freeze settlement construction in the occupied territories. Washington considers the settlements the biggest obstacle to peace.

Trucks Wednesday unloaded five trailers at the bus terminal, which since 1983 has served as an army base. Five more mobile homes were to be set up later Wednesday.

The trailers are to house about 160 Jewish students of a Hebron seminary. Settlers claimed the bus terminal was built on what was once "Jewish owned land."

Defence ministry spokesman Danny Naveh said the students would only live in the trailers until their nearby seminary building has been renovated. "This is not a settlement, it is temporary housing," Mr. Naveh said.

Settler leader Aharon Domb, director of the seminary, said renovation would take about two years. He said settlers had signed an agreement with the defence ministry accepting the temporary nature of the trailer park.

But in Hebron and elsewhere, some permanent settlements were established despite government assurances to the contrary.

"It is not fair," said an elderly Arab man watching a crane unload a mobile home. "The Israelis are talking about peace and they are building settlements. They are fooling us."

The army declared Hebron a closed military area.

Hebron is a flashpoint of tensions of the 44-month Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied territories.

In all more than 80,000 Palestinians and about 500 Jews live in the mountainous city, about 50 kilometres south of Jerusalem.

Palestinians throughout the occupied lands observed a general strike Wednesday called by the PLO in protest against Jewish settlement.

building. Their leaders also protested the Hebron settlement's expansion and argued it would raise tensions in the city.

"I think the intentions of those building settlements in this holy city now, is to explode the peace process," said Mustafa Natshe, a former mayor of Hebron who was removed from the post by Israel in 1983.

A foreign ministry statement said Israel viewed the Soviet crisis "with concern."

Israel "hopes there will be no change in the Soviet policy towards Jewish immigration," it said. The statement said Israel hoped the Soviet Union would carry through on "positive developments in bilateral relations," primarily its promise to renew the diplomatic ties with Israel that it severed in 1967.

"Peace between Israel and the Arab countries is in the interests of all the people in this region. We do hope that the Arab countries will continue making the peace process go on, as we do, irrespective of what is happening in the Soviet Union," it concluded.

An umbrella group uniting Soviet immigrants in Israel Tuesday called on Soviet Jews to emigrate there as soon as possible.

The Soviet Jewish Zionist Forum said in a statement that it made the call "in light of the unstable situation in the Soviet Union, which could lead to real danger."

"We turn to you despite the difficulties in absorption that you are likely to encounter in Israel, to stop weighing up the possibilities and to come and join your people in your people in your homeland, the only place where Jews can be totally safe," it said.

The organisation, led by former Soviet Jewish dissident Nathan Sharansky, also appealed to Soviet immigrants in Israel, asking them "to turn to their family and friends still in the Soviet Union with this message without delay."

Immigration officials reported Tuesday that Soviet Jews were leaving their country without noticeable difficulties in spite of the

political turmoil, and that Soviet emigration offices were open as usual.

Two flights bringing Soviet Jewish immigrants landed Tuesday in Israel, the immigration-oriented Jewish Agency said.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens, speaking to U.S. Jewish leaders in Tel Aviv, said Israel hopes that the Soviet overhaul would not stop immigration.

"We hope... that it would not influence immigration to Israel, that gates would not be closed and that Soviet Jews would be allowed to leave in large numbers, as it happened during the last year and a half," Mr. Arens said.

More than 290,000 Soviets have settled in Israel since 1989, and many of them face housing and employment difficulties.

Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon also urged Soviet Jews to "leave everything behind" and migrate immediately to Israel.

He also said that Israel should reconsider attending superpower-sponsored Middle East peace talks.

Mr. Sharon told Israel radio 60,000 Soviet Jews hold all the necessary permits to emigrate.

"I again call on all these Jews to leave everything behind and immigrate immediately to Israel. There is only one safe place for Jews, that is in Israel. This has been proven to us again."

A ministerial committee headed by Mr. Sharon met Wednesday to discuss plans for a possible surge of arrivals. Israel has an emergency plan to house a mass influx of Jews in army bases and collective farm guest houses.

Upheaval in the Soviet Union has also pushed aside intense diplomatic negotiations to arrange an unprecedented Middle East peace conference.

Mr. Sharon, who even before the Soviet coup opposed Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's agreement to joint peace talks, said that "if the current situation worries the United States, it should worry us more."

"We see that those hopes in all of our hearts are built on shifting sands and therefore the government today has to stop the process and reconsider everything."

Iraq urges Arab action against Turkish incursion

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq has urged the Arab League to put pressure on Turkey to pull its troops out of its territory where they have been hunting Kurdish separatist guerrillas.

Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer, in a letter to the league carried in part in Iraq's official press Wednesday, spoke of the need to preserve the integrity of Arab territory and the texts of the Joint Arab Defence Pact.

Turkey, he said, was in breach of a 1926 Iraqi-Turkish border accord. Its action was against the interest of all the people in the region and Iraq in particular, he added.

Turkey sent its troops and planes into northern Iraq to attack the Turkish Kurds after guerrilla attacks on its territory.

It has spoken of establishing a border security zone inside Iraq. Iraq is negotiating a peace and autonomy deal with its own Kurds following an abortive post-Gulf war rebellion in March.

Its initial response to the incursion was muted. Diplomats linked this to the fact that Iraq needs Turkish cooperation in reopening a pipeline to export oil.

The Security Council has agreed to let Iraq resume some oil exports to buy food and medicine but under conditions that Iraq has rejected.

Iraq, its economy squeezed by the year-old Gulf crisis trade blockade, has not said whether it will resume oil exports under such conditions but most diplomats say that in the long run it has little choice.

Turkey closed the pipeline after Iraq invaded Kuwait last August. Iraq's smashed Gulf oil terminals are inoperable and its pipeline through Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea is unusable for both political and technical reasons.

Iraq denies Turkish claims that rebels Kurds have based in Iraq. A ministry source quoted by the official Iranian news agency IRNA rejected "irresponsible remarks" by Turkish military officials that guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) were operating from Iranian soil.

"It is a matter of regret that certain Turkish officials by making such remarks try to give external dimensions to their internal problems and to derail the public opinion from the true path," the source said.

Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz said on Aug. 11 that PKK guerrillas had escaped to Iraq during Turkish army raids on their bases in northern Iraq. Ankara had contacted Tehran over the matter, he said.

Tehran Radio has criticised the offensive near its frontier, saying it violated international law.

The Turkish army launched its attack on PKK strongholds inside Iraq on Aug. 5. An army spokesman said on Monday that troops had completed mopping-up operations.

In the latest PKK attack Monday night, five Turkish soldiers and a Kurdish guerrilla were killed near the southeastern border town of Silopi.

More than 3,300 people have been killed in the PKK's seven-year campaign for independence for Turkey's 10 million Kurds.

Swiss police hold Bakhtiar suspect

PARIS (R) — A man believed to be one of three Iranians suspected of murdering former Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar and his secretary was arrested in Geneva Wednesday, according to Swiss police contacted by Reuters in Paris.

They said they believed the arrested man was Ali Vakili Rad, one of the last three men known to have visited Mr. Bakhtiar at his Paris home on Aug. 6, the day of the killing.

The detained man had no papers on him and further checks were being made, they said.

Shortly before news of the arrest was made public, police spokesman Thierry Magnin told Reuters the Swiss police force believed Mr. Rad and fellow suspect Mohammad Azadi were still in Switzerland.

He said hotels and border posts were under surveillance.

The two Iranians, who flew to Paris from Tehran in July, are believed to have been introduced to their prospective victim by a third Iranian, Saroudoun Boyer Amadi, who knew Mr. Bakhtiar and had won his trust.

A 36-hour delay in discovering the bodies of Mr. Bakhtiar and his secretary, knifed to death despite round-the-clock police protection, allowed Mr. Azadi and Mr. Rad to flee to the French border with Switzerland.

The two Iranians were briefly held by French police after trying unsuccessfully to cross the border with forged Swiss visas but were released because the murders had not yet been discovered.

One of the suspects was later tracked to a hotel in Geneva but a temporary breakdown involving the computer used to check hotel registers against the list of wanted men allowed him to get away.

The delay in noticing the murders and several near-misses in the police hunt for the suspected killers have prompted a public outcry in France.

Iranian exiles and French

media questioned whether the government let the murderers escape in order not to jeopardise international negotiations underway to free Western hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Guy Bakhtiar, the opposition leader's son, accused the guards protecting his father of negligence but said he did not believe they deliberately allowed the murderers to escape.

"The special police guards at my father's house in Suresnes did not observe the orders on security. The system set up was very precise," Mr. Bakhtiar said in an interview with the daily Le Figaro published Wednesday.

Mr. Bakhtiar, who belongs to France's police intelligence, said the instructions specified one of the guards should tour his father's house at least five times a day. If that had been done the guard could not have avoided spotting the body of Mr. Bakhtiar's secretary through the bay windows, he said.

The guards were also meant to go to the first floor where Mr. Bakhtiar lived and fetch a list of the day's visitors if the secretary did not deliver it in the morning.

And the guards failed to notice a window was left open at night, whereas Mr. Bakhtiar always closed his shutters when darkness fell.

Interior Minister Philippe Marchand has rejected the charges as "scandalous." "The police have not made any mistake... the government's will is to do everything it can," he has said.

Asked whether he thought the discovery of the murders had been delayed to give the assassins time to escape, Mr. Bakhtiar said: "I don't think so... it seems too machiavellian to me."

He said he was convinced the police sincerely wanted to track the killers down. "But on the other hand, if one of the guilty is arrested, a possible deal involving the hostages is conceivable."

Gorbachev back in power

(Continued from Page 1)

Bush said. Mr. Bush said the coup's failure in the face of opposition led by Mr. Yeltsin meant "a gigantic leap forward" for democracy, "because we will have seen its inherent strength. We will have seen that a courageous leader standing up for principle can rally an enormous number of people behind him."

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he was "deeply impressed by the courage of those who have stood for democratic values."

With their "courage and determination," the citizens in Moscow, Leningrad and the Baltic republics "have shown they are not prepared to see the rewriting of history," British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said at a NATO meeting in Brussels.

"It shows there is such a thing as human progress, however faltering," he said. "The three ugly sisters — the party, the KGB and the Ministry of Defence — tried to impose by traditional means their will, and it did not work. That is obviously the beginning of a new chapter."

Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland said: "Boris Yeltsin's exceptional courage and strength of will in the face of a seemingly superior force will go down in history as an example for all those who fight for people's right to freedom and self-determination."

In Germany, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's spokesman Dieter Vogel said the coup failed because of "the people's massive opposition, the whole determination of the Russian parliament and not the least the international pressure for the reinstatement of constitutional rights."

"This is really a victory for freedom, a victory for democracy," said Hans Schumacher, spokesman for German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher. "And maybe this was the last event of this kind which has happened in Eastern Europe."

Italy's President Francesco Cossiga said the coup would have succeeded, "if perestroika hadn't dug in deeper than perhaps we had thought and if weren't for acts of courage and determination like that of Mr. Yeltsin and (former Foreign Minister) Eduard Shevardnadze."

Some countries, including Germany and Switzerland, said the coup bid highlighted the need for increased Western support for Mr. Gorbachev's reforms.

When Mr. Gorbachev attended the Group of Seven industrialised nations conference in London in July he received limited financial support.

"The fact that they so bravely resisted the attempted coup gives them a right to a major aid programme," German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said.

Shamir hopes for October parley

(Continued from Page 1)

Mr. Mubarak said the Americans were exerting considerable efforts with the Israelis to get a peace conference started.

"When the talks start we can say 'no' if they go in the wrong direction," Mr. Mubarak said. "But we shouldn't say 'no' from the start."

Mr. Mubarak said that despite recent consultations, Syria and

Egypt had disagreed over when the Arab economic boycott of Israel should be lifted.

"As I saw it, it should be within confidence-building measures... but Damascus thought it should be linked to a peace agreement," he said.

Mr. Mubarak blamed Sudanese Muslim fundamentalist leader Hassan Turabi by name for current bad Egyptian-Sudanese relations because of his dominance over Khartoum's leadership.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Amnesty: 300 detainees killed in Mauritania

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International said Wednesday more than 300 detainees have been killed in Mauritania's jails, military barracks, or police stations over a five-month period. "Amnesty International has eyewitness reports of more than 140 people killed between November 1990 and March this year, some of them hanged without ever having been tried and others after brutal torture," the London-based human rights group said in a statement. "Reliable information has been received on a further 200 killed in custody," Amnesty added. It urged the government of the northwest African state to carry out an open and impartial investigation into the deaths. "Most of the prisoners who died or were killed were army officers or civil servants belonging to black ethnic groups from the south," Amnesty said. Amnesty and other human rights organisations say Mauritania's military government has one of the worst human rights records in Africa. They accuse it of torture, killings, arrests and expulsions. The Mauritanian government has denied allegations of racism, torture or deaths.

Iranians arrested for alleged drug smuggling

TOKYO (AP) — Customs officials said Tuesday they had arrested three Iranians for allegedly smuggling 694 grammes of opium and 486 grammes of marijuana into Japan. The drugs were found hidden in the baggage of the three men when they arrived at the new Tokyo international airport at Narita on Aug. 10 on a flight from Seoul, South Korea, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The three Iranians were identified as Davoud Rajabi Hassani, 22; Davoud Nezami Ghargheh, 27 and Jafar Moazzami, 28, all from Tehran. The opium was estimated to be worth 80 million yen (\$580,000) and the marijuana worth 3.88 million yen (\$28,000) in street sales here. The maximum penalty for opium trafficking in Japan is 10 years in prison and that for marijuana seven years in prison.

Sixth suspect arrested in Rabta case

MANNHEIM, Germany (AP) — Police Tuesday arrested a sixth suspect in the 2-year-old investigation of German companies that allegedly helped build Libya's poison gas factory. Hans-Joachim Renner, former manager of the Imhausen-Chemie chemical firm, is suspected of helping plan and build the plant at Rabta, Libya, according to a special Mannheim-based prosecutor's office probing the scandal. The head of the same company — Juergen Hippenstiel-Imhausen — was convicted last year of being the key German figure in the Rabta plant's construction and was sentenced to five years in prison. Three other German businessmen are currently on trial for their alleged roles in the Rabta plant. Another German businessman was arrested on Aug. 1 for allegedly helping with illegal exports for the Rabta complex. German companies' involvement in the factory was first disclosed by U.S. intelligence in late 1988. Embarrassed by the allegations, the German government at first denied them. Germany ultimately conceded the charges were true, and launched its own investigation, which is continuing.

Police gun down 20 bandits in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — Policemen have gunned down 20 alleged bandits in less than one week during their campaign to confiscate illegally-owned weapons in west Sudan, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said Tuesday. SUNA said 11 armed bandits had looted homes and stolen camels in the western state of Darfur. Policemen tracked them down and they were killed in a shootout. And last Friday, nine bandits and a policeman were killed when police overran a camp belonging to the bandits. On Aug. 3, the government said its armed forces and police will start confiscating illegally-owned weapons in west Sudan. This move came at the end of a one-month period during which 1,500 pieces of arms were voluntarily handed over to authorities. West Sudan has been plagued by violence for years after the conflict in neighbouring Chad made weapons easily available and cheap. Armed robbery became commonplace. And tribal conflicts killed hundreds of people after traditional spears were replaced by automatic weapons. Previous governments have failed to bring peace to the region. Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, who has been in power for two years, has been leading mediation efforts to end the tribal conflicts in the region as well as gather up the weapons. Blood money worth 54 million Sudanese pounds (\$4.5 million) has been given to relatives of the victims, half paid by the government and the other half by the culprits. Governor of Darfur Al Tayeb Ibrahim Mohammad Khair was quoted by SUNA as saying that so far, 5,732 pieces of weapons have been gathered. He said the combating operations are progressing satisfactorily. Darfur is home to 4.9 million Sudanese, 90 per cent of whom are nomads. Drought and desertification have decreased resources in the region and have put thousands of people in danger of famine.

Bahrain appoints ambassador to Moscow

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain appointed its first ambassador to the Soviet Union Tuesday, but there was still no official comment on the dramatic turn of events in Moscow. Bahrain's Emir Sheikh al-Salman Al-Khalifa issued a decree saying Salman Mohammad Al-Safar would be Bahrain's ambassador in Moscow, the Gulf News Agency said. Bahrain established diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union last September, almost immediately after Saudi Arabia renewed links with the communist state after a 52-year hiatus. There has been no official statement from Bahrain so far on President Mikhail Gorbachev's removal. Sheikh Isa issued four other decrees appointing new ambassadors to France, the United States, Syria, and the United Nations, the agency said.

Soviet envoys visit Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) — Two Soviet Foreign Ministry envoys, among the first on a foreign visit since the coup in Moscow, arrived Wednesday for talks with the Cyprus government. "I'm coming as an envoy of the Soviet Union," said one of the envoys, Yuri Fokine, when asked whether he represented the new or the pre-coup Soviet administration. The visit by Mr. Fokine and Aleksander Pushkin was arranged before Monday's coup by headline communists which displaced Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The two envoys are also scheduled to visit Athens and Ankara to be briefed on the latest developments and efforts for the reunification of war-divided Cyprus.

Iran refuses to take sides over Gorbachev overthrow

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Wednesday it would not take sides on Mikhail Gorbachev's overthrow and did not expect the latest changes in the Soviet Union to affect Tehran's "strategic" ties with Moscow.

Gennady Yanayev, who replaced Mr. Gorbachev as acting president in a right-wing coup on Monday, sent a message to Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani saying Moscow would honour its international commitments.

"The new emergency situation in no way affects the Soviet Union's international undertakings and this country will never breach its existing agreements and commitments," Tehran Radio quoted Mr. Yanayev as telling Mr. Rafsanjani.

The report did not elaborate. Tehran last year took delivery of advanced MIG-29 fighter planes under extensive military and economic agreements signed by Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Rafsanjani in 1990.

Moscow agreed to build billions of dollars' worth of development projects in exchange for Iranian gas until the year 2000. Details of the military pacts have not been made public.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who received Mr. Yanayev's message from the

Soviet ambassador in Tehran, said Iran "will seriously follow up the developments and hopes they will not harm the Soviet people," the radio said.

In an interview published in Jomhuri Eslami newspaper, Mr. Velayati said Iran's "strategic" relations with the Soviet Union "are in a favourable state and the recent developments are not expected to change them."

"The recent developments in the Soviet Union are an internal issue of that country. Iran does not intend to interfere in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union. We respect whatever decision the Soviets make," he added.

Mr. Velayati's stance appeared to reflect Tehran's desire to keep on good terms with the new Soviet leadership while keeping its options open in case Mr. Gorbachev returns to power.

Iran's Islamic leaders hailed Mr. Gorbachev for discarding much communist dogma, granting greater freedoms to Soviet Muslims and pulling the Soviet army out of Afghanistan.

"History will remember Mr. Gorbachev as the man who dealt the final blow to communism and rescued the Soviet people from 70 years of suffocation," Tehran's Resalat daily said.

Asked about the possibility

that Moscow, Baghdad's main arms supplier during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, might begin rearming Iraq, Mr. Velayati told Jomhuri Eslami that it was highly unlikely.

"Moreover, no country will supply Baghdad with arms free of charge," he said.

Mr. Velayati said the fall of Mr. Gorbachev might disturb U.S.-led efforts for a Middle East peace conference but it was premature to speculate how it would affect the migration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

"We hope that the exodus will be halted. We have opposed the move and have repeatedly relayed our opposition to the Soviets and others," he said.

A leading Iranian hardliner said the consolidation of a new Soviet government should be welcomed if it undermined the establishment of Washington "new world order."

"All in all, the developments can be viewed as positive merely in the light of the fact that they are against America's will," Mohammad Mousavi Khoeiniha, leader of radical students who seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979, said in remarks published in Salam newspaper and reported by Iran's IRNA news agency.

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Labour Ministry measures to help ease unemployment

AMMAN (Fotna) — In line with the national efforts to deal with problems resulting from the return to Jordan of thousands of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates, the Labour Ministry Wednesday announced further measures to help substitute foreign workers with returnees and partly deal with the unemployment issue.

Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Dughmi issued instructions to all municipal and village councils to employ Jordanians only and warned bakeries that they would be held responsible for any labour law violations concerning the employment of non-Jordanians.

The minister said that non-Jordanians found working without proper work permits would be immediately ordered to leave the country.

The minister, who was addressing a meeting of heads of employment offices in the country, said that foreign truck drivers

employed by various transportation companies and businesses will have to leave and make way for Jordanian drivers.

The termination of the non-Jordanian drivers' employment followed numerous complaints by Jordanian drivers who are seeking jobs, said the minister.

Many of the companies employing non-Jordanian drivers have already complied and laid them off and the ministry has already ordered the departure of 912 such drivers.

Concerning workers in farms growing tobacco, the minister said they were employed according to law, but those with no work permits would be ordered to leave the country.

The minister said he had instructed directors of employment offices in Jordan to consider any grievances or complaints raised by the job-seekers or businesses to ease the pressure on the ministry.



Remains of truck that crashed into house at Wadi Seer. The death toll from that accident climbed to nine as three pulled from the wreck died in the hospital.

Death toll of Wadi Seer road accident rises to nine

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The three people seriously injured in a road accident at Wadi Seer Tuesday evening died in the hospital, raising the number of dead to nine.

The accident involved a truck with an Iraqi licence plate which overturned and hit a home in town of Wadi Seer, killing people inside the house and some nearby. The driver, an Iraqi, was not among those killed or injured.

According to the Civil Defence Department (CDD) officials who rushed to the scene of the accident, the driver had lost control

of his vehicle, which carried furniture to Wadi Seer, because of faulty brakes. The truck changed course and hit the side of the hill crashing into the house, according to officials.

At least four cars parked nearby were crushed by the truck whose contents were strewn along a wide area as it sped out of control down the hill before hitting the house and the side of the hill, the CDD officials said.

Rescuers had pulled at least three injured people from the house and rushed them to a hospital. CDD officials had said they were seriously injured.

Two of those three died Tuesday evening and one early Wednesday, according to an informed source at King Hussein Medical City, where they had been taken for care.

The driver, Kathem Abn Jawad, 30, told CDD officials that he was unable to control the vehicle when he found that the brakes were faulty.

The truck, a semi-trailer, carried furniture owned by a Jordanian returning from the Gulf region.

Police said that the truck carried 27 tonnes of furniture, far in excess of its normal load capacity.

Doctors delegation describes Iraqi living conditions as 'appalling'

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation of the Belgium-based Doctors of the Third World returned to Amman Wednesday after a three-day visit to Iraq on a fact finding mission and described living conditions of the Iraqi people as "appalling."

Delegation members, whose task was to pave the way for this week's visit to Iraq by a team from Harvard University to investigate humanitarian issues in the wake of the Gulf war, said that conditions are difficult because of the economic embargo on the nation and the shortage of many essential commodities.

Hospitals do not function due to the lack of essential equipment, spare parts and medicine. The delegation, which includes doctors from Belgium, Morocco and Canada, conducted a study on the health situation in Iraqi cities.

Kut hospital, for example, was found to be without electricity and without medicines needed to treat patients, they said. Many people with heart conditions, high blood pressure, diabetes and other problems lacked proper treatment and vaccines were not available for children, they said.

Iraqi authorities have introduced a health card system in order to ensure the fair distribution of what medicines remain in the country.

The Harvard University team includes more than 40 leading physicians, lawyers, engineers, economists and psychologists who plan to carry out studies in the coming two weeks.

This experts plan to carry out the following studies: — The physicians will take 32 specially trained Jordanian health workers to conduct what could be a groundbreaking survey of the effect of the Gulf crisis on Iraqi children. The study will include a door-to-door mortality and nutritional survey of 8,400 homes throughout Iraq.

— A survey of Iraq's infrastructure, including the electrical, water, and sewage systems, to gather the latest information on the impact of the allied bombing campaign on public health.

— A continuation of the legal analysis of the war to determine if the allied bombing was conducted in accordance with international law.

— A psychological study of the effects of the war on Iraqi children, led by a former director of UNICEF.

— A hospital study to assess the capability of the health care system to meet the needs of the civilian population.

Leaders of the study hope their information will help the United Nations determine where humanitarian relief is most needed.

"If terms of its size and scope, this study will be unprecedented for a country that is still recovering from such a devastating conflict," said Dr. Megan Passey, a Harvard University doctor who is leading the public health study.

"If it works, it should yield scientifically valid data on the effect of the Gulf crisis on the mortality and nutritional status of young children and on the broader civilian population," Mrs. Passey said. "This information could greatly assist relief efforts."

The original Harvard study team visited Iraq in April and May and projected that 170,000 children under the age of five would die from the economic embargo and the delayed effects of the allied bombing campaign. That report received wide international attention and was made an official document of the United Nations Sanctions Committee.

"We would like nothing more than to discover that our dire prediction has not come true," said Roger Normand, a member of the Harvard Rights Programme and the trip organiser.

"Unfortunately, we are compelled to do a second study because reports continue to come out of Iraq of widespread malnutrition and death among young children," Mr. Normand said.

Workers end strike after government intervenes

By Issam Qadamani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A one-day strike by workers employed by the paper and cardboard companies in Zarqa ended Wednesday after personal intervention by Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Dughmi and after the workers understood that their action was illegal.

According to the Labour Law, workers should suspend any strike action if an arbitration committee has been appointed to end the dispute.

Despite the presence of such a committee, led by Samir Fakhouri, the workers at Zarqa went ahead with their illegal action.

Mr. Fakhouri and his team



Abdul Karim Al Dughmi

are now expected to meet with representatives of the workers and the employers in a bid to settle the dispute.

The workers are demanding a pay rise of JD 20 a month and an additional increase of JD 15 for night shift workers, an increase of JD 10 over the previous salary. Workers are asking for the establishment of a health scheme for the workers' families or the payment of JD 25 a month if no such programme is possible.

Furthermore, the workers are demanding two months a year as sickness leave and the cancellation of warnings earlier served to some of the workers.

Officials at the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions said that the strike, which was in contravention of Article 104 of the Labour Law, was a result of the workers' ignorance of the law and regulations.

Water service cutoff threatened to subscribers who don't settle accounts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation Wednesday served notice to subscribers that it would have to resort to very stringent measures in ten days if there was a continued delay in payment of bills for water consumption.

The ministry in Amman and all its departments in the various governorates will cut off water supplies to households that have failed to pay dues in the past months and years, and will remove the water meters until all the accounts have been settled, according to an announcement made by the ministry's secretary general, Mntazz Al Bilbeisi.

Subscribers have an accumulative debt of nearly JD 8 million to the water development projects due to the lack of sufficient funds,



Mntazz Al Bilbeisi

He said that the money is needed to help finance the replacement of old, rusty and leaking water networks and to carry out maintenance services.

Unless clients pay their dues by Aug. 31, the ministry will resort to cutting off water supplies to

those who have failed to pay their dues, Mr. Bilbeisi said.

Also, not only will these subscribers have to settle all their accounts, but they will also have to pay a fine to the Water Authority to have their water service restored afterwards, Mr. Bilbeisi added.

In December 1990, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation issued similar notifications to its subscribers, who included households and government departments.

Mr. Bilbeisi said that the ministry has given ample time for subscribers to pay their dues and many of them have already responded but some still fail to pay their bills.

Mr. Bilbeisi called on all citizens to pay their dues to help the ministry offer better services.

Jordanian national environment strategy completed, official says

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian national environment strategy has been completed and will be revealed in detail in 10 days time, according to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Salim Al Zoubi.

He told a press conference at his office that the strategy is considered a milestone in Jordan's drive to protect its environment from pollution.

The strategy has been prepared in cooperation with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and with financial help from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Preparation

is underway for the official declaration of the strategy prior to putting its various articles into force, the minister said.

Mr. Zoubi told the press that the strategy covers eight areas: surface and underground water, agricultural land, wildlife reserves, coastal areas and marine wealth, population and settlements, the atmosphere and air, energy and minerals and antiquities and culture. The strategy will be implemented by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment in cooperation with other government departments and organisations, the minister said.

Mr. Zoubi said that in the coming month he will take part in an Arab ministerial conference to discuss the environment. He will submit a working paper dealing with environmental problems in the Arab World, he said.

The meeting, to be held in Cairo, will deal with topics that would be on the agenda of an international environment conference due to be held in Brazil next year.

Ministry Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani told the press conference that work on the strategy started in 1989 and a total of 172 specialists were involved in drawing up its articles.

Constituency formation: A process of political coalition-building

This is the second article of a four-part series on the establishment of political parties in Jordan as part of its ongoing democratisation movement. In this article, the writer discusses the process of constituency-building encountered by leftist, centrist and rightist parties.

By Mariam M. Shabla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As the Jordanian Parliament prepares itself to discuss a draft law on the legislation of political parties in the Kingdom, parties and political alliances are mushrooming across the country.

Working in both heavily populated urban centres as well as the rural and tribal areas, political groupings, some 40 of which are preparing to apply for legislation, are sponsoring political debates all over Jordan.

Members of the Jordanian Arab Nationalist Democratic Coalition (JANDAC) — a coalition of 3 centrist, leftist and nationalist parties — and the Muslim Brotherhood have been the two blocs of political groups that have led mass rallies and meetings since parliamentary elections were held here in November 1989.

But, as democracy slowly creeps into the Jordanian conscience, more parties and groupings are springing up, hoping to attract many citizens that have never been involved in politics.

Political observers believe that the leftist coalition JANDAC could have up to 20,000 semi-active followers in the Kingdom. The number is considered large because scrutiny of political activists on the left side of the political spectrum was particularly harsh during the years now known by some political activists as "The Years of Repression," from 1957 to 1989.

There are about 9 deputies in Parliament which are members of JANDAC. In addition, the coalition was recently given five seats in the cabinet of Prime Minister Taher Masi.

In Jordan, as in most countries, the leftist parties champion the cause of the poor and underprivileged. Many leftist leaders believe that despite the strength of Islamic politics in Jordan, in the long term the class issues will draw greater support than salvation by religious politics.

The Muslim Brotherhood, Jordan's most powerful Islamic party, which holds 23 of the Lower House's 80 seats, continues to call for the imposition of Islamic law.

"Islamic law," says Ahmad Qasbi Al Azaidah, a Lower House deputy and the group's spokesman in Parliament, "is what all Muslims want and the role of the majority is democracy."

"We will never use illegal ways of rock the boat. We are determined to work through democratic means to establish democratic rule," Mr. Azaidah told the Jordan Times in an interview.

While the popular following of both JANDAC and the Islamic parties have been active since the long awaited Parliamentary elections of 1989 took place, the "silent majority" has yet to get involved in the country's new found political life.

More conservative and right-centre parties are slowly bringing up among the business-oriented bourgeoisie and the more traditional Jordanians from the east and west



Abdul Hadi Al Majali

banks of the river.

While few party formations have been announced during the last two years, at least one conservative party has already been formed and announced a platform.

The Al-Ahd Party, headed by retired Brigadier General Abdul Hadi Al Majali, is expected to be among the leading conservative parties in the Kingdom. It has been dubbed by many opponents as a Jordanian Likud, in reference to the Israeli right wing nationalist party. Mr. Majali dismisses the reference as "silly."

The retired brigadier general says that the Al-Ahd is simply a party that is primarily concerned with Jordan rather than being a primarily pan-Arab party that relegates Jordanian domestic issues as secondary.

According to Mr. Majali, Jordanian issues include everything that pertains to Jordanian domestic policies. The Al-Ahd will preside over a general conference scheduled for early September in which "70 prominent personalities" will study how a conservative coalition of groups, parties and individuals will unite to present their platform to the Jordanian public.

Mr. Majali denies claims by critics that the party or the conservative coalition will be elitist.

"We intend to appeal to the masses. Our target group are those which are neither leftist nor particularly religious," Mr. Majali said.

"We are a secular party," he continued, "and our interests lay in developing the local economy and strengthening the country's infrastructure — that should interest all citizens."

While the conservatives have no defined coalition bloc in Parliament, Mr. Majali said that the party had been in touch with a number of deputies and that the formation of a conservative bloc of members of parliament who would be politically close to the Al-Ahd Party and the future conservative coalition was already in the process of being formed.

It announced formation, however, could take some time, Mr. Majali said.

Council of Ministers appoints delegations to represent Jordan in various meetings

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian delegation led by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Salim Al Zoubi will take part in a regional ministerial conference due to open in Cairo on Sept. 10, according to a decision by the Council of Ministers.

The meeting, which will be attended by Arab ministers responsible for the environment, will discuss participation by Arab countries in an International Conference in the Environment, which is scheduled to be held in Brazil in 1992.

According to a statement, the

Council of Ministers set up a Jordanian delegation to attend the third meeting of a joint Syrian-Jordanian Committee on Public Works and Housing, which is to be held in Damascus on Sept. 7. The council delegated Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Srair to lead that delegation.

The cabinet also set up a delegation led by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb to Tehran on Aug. 23 for discussions designed to stimulate economic and trade exchanges between Jordan and Iran. It said

that the delegation to Tehran will include representatives of the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Free Zones Corporation, the Jordanian Engineers Association, the Jordanian Contractors Association, the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation and the Central Bank of Jordan.

The cabinet formed another delegation led by Mr. Abul Ragheb to take part in the Arab League Economic and Social Council's 49th meeting, due to open in Cairo on Sept. 1.

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Co. Invites

Contractors to participate in tender No. 4/91 for the supply of a number of truck tractors and semi-trailers as per technical specifications attached with terms of tender.

Contractors wishing to bid for tender can obtain copies of tender documents from the company in Jabal Al Hussein - behind Ministry of Health — opposite Al Fadel Bin Abbas Mosque - Amman for non-refundable fee of JD 160,000 (one hundred and sixty Jordan dinars) per copy, bearing official documents proving their registration in records of trading agents.

Offers should be submitted and deposited in tender box of company not later than 2.30 p.m. (local summer time) on Sunday, September 22nd, 1991.

Chairman/General-Manager
Hisham Asfour

IRAQI JORDANIAN LAND TRANSPORT CO.

Tender No. 7/91

Sale Of Used Semi-Trailer

Iraqi Jordanian Land Transport Company intends to sell (236) used semi-trailers of Krone and Nootbome types manufactured in 1981-1982.

Related Information:

1. Custom duties unpaid.
2. Offers can be submitted to buy one, or all.
3. Semi-trailers can be checked and inspected at the company's garages in Aqaba, Jordan, starting August 21, 1991,
4. Copies of terms, conditions, and technical specifications can be bought for the sum of (100) Jordanian dinars (JD), non-refundable, from the company's main offices in Amman between 4th and 5th Circles, Jabal Amman, during official working hours (0800-1430) starting 21/8/1991.
5. Closing date for submitting offers 21/9/1991 (1200 hrs).

Dr. Shaker Mahadin
Director General

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

الجزيرة الأردنية السياسية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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Lessons from putsch

THE TASTE of democracy and freedom must be credited first and foremost for the failure of Monday's putsch in Moscow which purported to reverse the course in the Soviet Union ushered in by Mikhail Gorbachev. In retrospect the Soviet coup leaders were troubled by the apparent disintegration of their "super power" and the inability of the reformist era to deliver on the promises to bring prosperity and full democracy to the Soviet people. They had acted in desperation thinking that the only way to arrest the rapid decline in the stature and strength of their homeland was to revert to the old and traditional ways.

Yet once the genie was out of the bottle there was obviously no effective way to put it back again. Whatever malaise still exists within the USSR, that big and powerful country needed a speedier leap into full democracy rather than reversion to undemocratic ways. The hesitation exercised by Gorbachev in the direction of the enjoyment of full democracy must have contributed to his temporary downfall and even probably eventual eclipse as a viable Soviet leader. His reinstatement as president by the Soviet Parliament Wednesday provides him with yet another opportunity to deliver on his long-standing pledge to move his country at full speed ahead into a nation where full and complete civil and political rights can be exercised.

The moral of this latest story for those Arabs who saluted Monday's coup and saw in it an opportunity to neutralize Washington's monopoly on international power is that democracy is still the only continuing way of life for mankind and that there is no effective and lasting way to reverse its march forward. Secondly, no matter how deep the Arab World's grievances are with the Western countries, notably the U.S. (and they are plenty and genuine), the real answer to such legitimate concerns does not lie in entertaining false hopes in other countries, be they large or small, but rather rests with them alone and the introduction of democracy to their own ranks as fast as possible. The Arab countries can never be as strong as they can be and relevant to international events unless they are also democratic and free. Gone are the days when the Arab woes and difficulties can be addressed by others, whoever these others may be. This is perhaps the principal message of and the most important lesson from the last few days' dramatic development in the Soviet Union.

The past three days have been a short period of time in this world's long history. But in them there are many lessons to be learned. The Arab World in particular will do well not only to digest the historic experience but also to draw the right conclusions from it. There should be some soul searching for us Arabs to do in the coming weeks and months, and we should do it promptly and thoroughly.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Wednesday accused the Western countries of interfering in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union which had decided to remove a man who proved incapable of shouldering his duties. The U.S.-led Western alliance is now launching a propaganda attack on the Moscow leadership, trying to reinstate their man in the Kremlin, the paper noted. The Soviet Union, the paper stressed, is not a Western colony but a superpower whose people have decided to move and put an end to a humiliating situation into which Mr. Gorbachev has placed his country, the paper noted. The Western nations are particularly appalled by the removal of Mr. Gorbachev because the downfall came at a time when they had been hoping to see the removal of their arch-enemy Saddam Hussein from power; a man who has led the Arab and Islamic nations against the expansionist designs and monopolies of the West, the paper added. It said that the West is faced with a dilemma now, after failing through their aggression on Iraq to topple Saddam Hussein, because they saw their own man removed. The Western countries should stop interfering in other countries' affairs and should not consider the internal affairs of the Soviet Union as their own business, the paper advised. It said that the change in the Kremlin leadership is done by the Soviet people and no one in the West can restore Mr. Gorbachev to power and no U.S. troops can see the return of the ousted leader to Moscow in a manner similar to the return of the Emir of Kuwait.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily drew the Ministry of Education's attention to the plight of students who cannot register in private schools for the new scholastic year and said this practice is illegal and calls for immediate action on the part of the ministry. Nashid said that at the start of each scholastic year private schools practice blackmail against students and their teachers in a manner that is totally incompatible with the educational process and in conflict with the concept of education in the Kingdom. The writer said that private schools refuse to register students at the beginning of the year, under the pretext that these students showed poor performance in the previous year, unless they accept to remain in the same grade for one year. These schools also resort to other sorts of threats, like giving the students difficult make-up examinations to make sure they fail, thus justifying their dismissal. But the writer said the real reason behind such underhand dealing and improper educational practice is the fact that each private school seeks to ensure that only very successful students remain in the schools so as to get high grades in the tawjihi examinations at the end of the scholastic year. Keeping only the elite of the students and dismissing the others is totally in conflict with educational ethics and contradict with the educational norms and regulations set by the Ministry of Education, said the writer. He urged the ministry to promptly interfere on behalf of these students and ensure their stay in the schools on equal footing with their colleagues.

Beware of politicians bearing gifts

By Safwan Bataineh

I SOMETIMES wonder if the scarcity of government finances hasn't been a blessing in disguise. For one thing, it has put paid to the heavy expansion of a grossly inefficient and largely unproductive public sector. For another, it has stopped government from creating money gobbling projects that live off public funds rather than wits and the opportunities available in the marketplace.

Sadly, I feel no compunction when harbouring such negative thoughts. Many of these projects cannot even cover the costs of their borrowings and have to shift the burden of the debt service onto the national budget.

The perennial drain from the budget that goes to support these failed entities means that healthy private enterprises are unjustly forced to keep sickly competitors alive by handing over more of their hard earned cash in the form of higher taxes (it is beyond me how the government can talk of encouraging investment when it diverts resources from successful enterprises just to pour them down the drain of commercial failures).

Mostly, however, I am driven to these thoughts by the lack of evidence that politicians have learnt anything from past mistakes. I have yet to hear a politician of note declare publicly his unequivocal opposition to the undertaking of commercial projects by the public sector, let alone expressing reservations about extending subsidies to existing operations. In fact, the only person I know of who has consistently called for market-based solutions — incurring the wrath of the entrenched officialdom in the process — is a columnist currently confined to sick bed. Typically, his ideas went unheeded by the know-it-all bureaucracy until outsiders (in this case, the IMF and World Bank missions) imposed them on decision makers.

The government must restrict its spending to providing essential services like education, health, to building and expanding the necessary infrastructure required to accommodate economic growth, to maintaining law and order and to ensuring the defence of the nation. Beyond that, government must adopt a neutral stance vis-a-vis economic participants, especially those who are in competition with each other.

Achieving this impartiality would require the government to divest itself of and sever legal and administrative links with all commercial entities starting with those operating in the capital and money markets (like the Housing Bank, the Amman Financial Market, the Industrial Development Bank and the Agricultural Credit Corporation) and those in the export field (like the Commercial Centres Corporation and the Agricultural Marketing Company).

Moreover, all forms of subsidies offered to enterprises or potential investors to the exclusion of competitors operating in the same sector must be cut off, phased out, or not contemplated,

regardless of the financial position of the firms in question or the desirability of the potential investment (subsidies offered across a whole sector like tax incentives or reduced water and electricity charges are not the issue here).

Finally, economic neutrality requires the new generation of politically minded ministers to check their natural tendency for populist initiatives and political patronage, to become policy makers and instruments for institutional reforms in their respective ministries rather than pose as glorified bureaucrats eager to expedite routine and transactional types of business for the public (especially for members of their constituency and citizens of patrimonial persuasion).

The rationale for such a radical departure from current behaviour is simple and straightforward. Lasting economic growth depends on the economy's ability to constantly increase its production of marketable goods and services (marketable in the sense of price competitiveness, attractiveness, and acceptable quality).

This ability, in turn, depends on both the availability of clever and accurate investments and productivity increases. Investment, which encompasses investment in technological innovations and ideas as well as capital stock, can either hit the mark and produce marketable goods and services or miss entirely and produce duds.

Unfortunately, most public sector investments are of the dud producing variety because managers are often insulated from the rigors and signals of the marketplace and tend to be bereft of such qualities like ingenuity and determination that are common amongst successful private entrepreneurs. These investments create initial surges of output that are unsustainable in the long run because of inherent inefficiencies and poor business decision. Worse still, they crowd out private investments since businessmen are understandably reluctant to compete with firms owned, subsidised, or even patronised by the government.

Empirical evidence is in full view in all the tattered parts of the globe. In the socialist countries the public sector (and the only sector) has continued to produce unmarketable goods and services until enough people got fed up and brought the whole system down in tears. As for the Third World, the cherished ideal of big and patronising government kept public sector projects alive long after their practical death with continuous infusions of public funds until all the money ran out or common sense returned, whichever came first.

Constant and haphazard intervention in the private economy distorted business decisions and prevented the efficient allocation of resources, thereby ensuring that fewer accurate investments were made than would have been otherwise achieved without the government's help.

A similar story can be told starting with that other prerequisite of economic success: productivity. But I think you've got the message. However, if the government is still not convinced, then it should heed the words of His Majesty the King:

"It is time for us to support and assist the government in fulfilling its role in terms of organisation and harmony amongst the various segments of society, as we move ahead towards the progress and prosperity through the private sector in the fields of public sector cannot replace the creativity and production. The progress and prosperity through the private sector in the fields of industry, tourism, commerce, agriculture and transportation, among other fields. These activities and other pertain to the private sector." (28/11/1988).

This is not to say that the government has no role to play in the management of the economy. On the contrary, investments in education and infrastructure play a critical part in increasing the productivity of labour and encouraging private investments.

Moreover, the implementation of economic policies, once these long overdue policies are actually formulated, is the exclusive domain of government. By means of such policy tools as interest rates and taxation, but not by dictates and decrees, the government can guide economic activities towards desirable paths without restricting freedom of choice for economic participants or hindering competition.

And should the government wake up one sunny morning and find excess cash in its coffers, it can use the money to reduce income taxes or to make it available for lending based on cash flow projections rather than on collateral.

Government, being neither blessed with omniscient powers nor famous for sound business decisions, should trust the instincts of its citizens as they pursue their self-interest and place their money where they think the highest returns are available. For somewhere in the midst of all this hive of activities there are successful businesses ready to burst out in a dazzling display of uninterrupted growth, pulling the whole nation with them along the road to prosperity.

To help bring out the best in Jordanians, the government should restructure the bureaucracy and redefine its role so as to support economic activities rather than generate them or, worse, obstruct them. Only then can we all look forward to the day when Jordan is no longer littered with dinosaur-like organisms which, like dinosaurs, have puny brains, voracious appetites, and are bound for extinction.

But the greatest hope must be placed upon our wise and farsighted citizenry to tell politicians when they come around carrying a gift: no thank you, not if we have to pay dearly for it later on.

Soviet policy in the Gulf conflict

By Olga Alexandrova

IN AUGUST 1990 hardly anyone could have predicted the repercussions which the Gulf crisis — later the Gulf war — would have on the foreign and domestic policies of the indirectly involved Soviet Union. The Gulf conflict became — to a greater extent and with more serious consequences than the German question or the "loss of Eastern Europe" — a controversial issue in domestic policy discussion. The orthodox conservative groups adopted an anti-American and pro-Iraqi stance. The Gulf conflict clearly undermined the limits to cooperation and partnership between the USSR and the West as well as to the level of acceptance of inner-Soviet interest groups, such as the military, the party apparatus and the military-industrial complex. It became obvious just how dependent the policy of "New Thinking" is on the domestic policy development.

The effects of the Gulf crisis on Soviet politics were many-sided. Viewed from the standpoint of world politics, an almost desperate struggle for the assertion of the (still existent) world power status of the Soviet Union was the real nerve of reaction to the development in the Gulf. The change in the Soviet position reflected the ambivalence and contradictory nature of both the Soviet policy towards the U.S. as well as of the USSR's foreign policy concept in general.

The domestic policy disputes over the Gulf problem were both an indicators as well as the driving force of a restorative trend, as a result of which the traditional power apparatus — the CPSU, the army and the KGB — regained influence on the Soviet leadership. The discussion about the orientation of Soviet foreign policy led, on the one hand, to a change in the foreign policy leadership, to Shevardnadze's resignation, and, on the other hand, to policy course adjustments which were not insignificant. The, in the broadest sense, military and security-related problems represented a major aspect in the discussion. It focused on a spectrum of problems ranging from the Soviet position with respect to military action against Iraq to the assessment of the level of Soviet armament.

The twin-track character of the Soviet Gulf policy

The varying nuances in the Soviet position during the Gulf conflict were highly relevant to the Soviet-American relationship. They will also remain important to its future development. It was the irony of history that, at a time when the two foreign ministers Baker and Shevardnadze were discussing the growing cooperation between the U.S. and the USSR in the settlement of regional conflicts in the Siberian city of Irkutsk on 1/2 August 1990, Iraq put the ability

of the big powers to implement this cooperative approach to the test by invading Kuwait. The resolute stance of the Soviet Union on the side of the anti-Iraqi coalition during the first few months — manifest, for example, in the joint Soviet-American declaration and the support for all 12 resolutions on the Gulf conflict passed by the United Nations Security Council — was primarily the result of personal efforts by Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and his closest advisers. This position was not backed by all leading institutions and interest groups. A pro-Iraqi lobby in the foreign policy establishment had opposed this orientation since the first days of the Gulf conflict. There were already signs of a twin-track Soviet diplomacy, therefore, in August 1990. The line which was supported by Shevardnadze and which stressed cooperation with the U.S. and joint action against the aggressor was juxtaposed by a line which was oriented towards maintaining active relations with Iraq and greater dissociation towards the U.S. The leading spokesman for the latter approach was the then Presidential Council member Primakov. He was backed by the military, the military-industrial complex and the orthodox wing of the CPSU.

The "Arabists" in the Soviet Foreign Ministry already tried to oppose an unambiguous condemnation of Iraq in the preparatory stages of the joint Soviet-American declaration on Aug. 3, 1990, presenting a diluted and mildly worded draft which the American side rejected. In addition to the diplomatic contacts with the anti-Iraqi coalition, the decision was also taken at that time to send a "personal envoy" of the president of the USSR to Baghdad. Initially, Mr. Shevardnadze wanted to undertake this mission himself; Mr. Primakov, as the representative of the friendly policy, however, was able to prevent this. It became particularly clear that Mr. Primakov and Mr. Shevardnadze were pursuing different goals in Oct. and Nov. 1990. As the U.N. Security Council turned its attention towards elaborating Resolution 678, which provided for the use of all (i.e. also military) means to the liberation of Kuwait, Mr. Primakov declared in a TV interview that he objected to the admissibility of a military option. Instead, the considerations on Iraq's claims vis-a-vis Kuwait and on the solution of the Palestinian problem should (as Saddam Hussein suggested) be presented in a package which allowed the Iraqi leader "to save face." The adoption of Resolution 678 was the final success of Mr. Shevardnadze's active diplomacy before he resigned as foreign minister three weeks later. The criticism levelled against his policy on the Gulf was allegedly a significant factor. The subsequent Soviet Gulf diplomacy was marked by a long silence.

Following Mr. Shevardnadze's resignation the polemics against his Gulf policy were expressed publicly. His successor at a later stage, Alexander Bessmertnykh, who was ambassador in Washington at the time, is reported to have endorsed this criticism. The former First Deputy Foreign Minister Kornienko accused Mr. Shevardnadze of amateurism. In particular, the Soviet vote for Resolution 678 was heavily criticised. Some Soviet diplomats and the military raised the question whether it might not have been better for the country to abstain. In January 1991 a draft circulated in the Supreme Soviet of the USSR for a resolution advocating the revocation of the Soviet signature beneath the U.N. Resolutions of sanctions against Iraq. During the final phase of the Gulf war Mr. Primakov's line, which was aimed at ensuring Saddam Hussein's survival, gained the upper hand once and for all. For the sake of this objective, Mr. Gorbachev was willing to accept a cooling down of relations with Washington.

Objections against a coalition with the U.S.

The "Arabists" in the Foreign Ministry and in the CPSU Central Committee were not the only ones dissatisfied with Mr. Shevardnadze's anti-Iraqi stance.

"Critics of the Soviet policy in the Gulf took the opinion that supporting the anti-Iraqi coalition was extremely detrimental in terms of power politics. The Soviet Union was running the risk of losing its role as a major power and thus its influence in the Third World."

The reasons for the rapidly developing domestic policy controversy were more deeply rooted. The very idea of closer cooperation with the U.S. was and is alien and suspect to the Soviet military, the orthodox communists and the nationalist groups with anti-Western leanings. As regards the Middle East, Mr. Shevardnadze's willingness to cooperate not only meant the betrayal of a "long-standing friend" in the eyes of his critics, but also and above all the abandonment of strategically important terrain in this region to the U.S.

Warnings could already be heard in Moscow during the first few days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait that Washington was seriously planning a longer-term military presence in the Gulf region with the aim of substantially upsetting the balance of power in its favour in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. The objections of the pro-Iraqi lobby against a new political orientation were summed up as follows by the deputy director of the Institute of Middle Eastern Studies at the

Academy of Sciences of the USSR, Naumkin: "We are groping in the dark in the Middle East. We have dropped the old policy [whether good or bad ...], but we have not elaborated a new one. Surely it is clear that the vote in the U.N. 'for' the use of force against Iraq is not going to win as public opinion in the Arab World? There is a tremendous to-ing and fro-ing in the choice of partners. Our country cannot survive without the Arabs. Here is the market, here is the money".

Security policy arguments against a cooperative stance in the Gulf conflict were mainly forwarded by the military. The appreciable presence of American troops in the Gulf jeopardised the country's security. The chief of staff of the Warsaw Pact, General Lobov, claimed that the U.S. would thus be able to exert its influence on events in the Transcaucasian republics. He linked the Gulf problem with the problem of disarmament: The presence of American troops in the Middle East could lead to a breakdown of the Vienna negotiations on the reduction of conventional forces in Europe, since these additional military capacities had not been included in the agreement. The presence of American troops had drastically upset the strategic equilibrium in the region. Furthermore, there was no guarantee that the U.S.

claimed principles of "New Political Thinking" into practice.

Contradictory Soviet standpoints on military aspects

One of the still unclarified questions is the problem of the presence of Soviet military advisers in Iraq. At the beginning of the Gulf conflict Soviet diplomats refused to provide information on the extent of arms sales to Iraq and the presence of military advisers. It was not until Aug. 6, 1990 that a member of the Soviet Foreign Ministry staff referred to "about 1,000 military advisers." Later on, Mr. Shevardnadze indirectly confirmed this figure in talks with Secretary of State Baker. Representatives of the Soviet army commented on this question on Aug. 15, 1990. The first deputy head of the Principal Department of the Soviet chief of staff, Lieutenant-General Nikituk, publicly denied that there were Soviet military advisers in Iraq. There had never been any such advisers. There were merely 193 Soviet "military specialists" there, who were rendering assistance on how to handle the Soviet military technology.

Neither the euphemisms used nor the figure of only 193 "specialists" seemed plausible; according to Western estimates, there are between 500 and 1,000 Soviet military advisers in Iraq. What is more, the assertion that there had never been any Soviet military advisers in Iraq was contradicted by the Soviet side itself. Apart from such military advisers there was even a chief military adviser with his own apparatus.

The Soviets repeatedly rejected the request by the U.S. to withdraw military advisers from Iraq by maintaining that this would constitute a violation of the treaty of friendship with Iraq. President Bush was also unable at the Helsinki summit in September 1990 to persuade Mr. Gorbachev to make such a concession. During the subsequent press conference in Helsinki Mr. Gorbachev even expressed his disconcertion at this suggestion and said that he had nothing to add on this question. The Soviet government also refused to stop training Iraqi army officers in the Soviet Union. According to statements by the Soviet Defence Ministry, there were "roughly just as many Iraqi officers" in the USSR "as Soviet specialists in Iraq".

On Jan. 17, 1991 the Soviet Defence Ministry announced that the last "military specialists" had left Iraq. Although the U.S. administration tried to play down the problem of Soviet military advisers in Iraq the suspicion that they were still in the country could not be allayed. It was suspected that about 150 Soviet experts remained in Iraq even after allied military action began. They are reputed to have advised Iraqis on the maintenance of military technology and in the field of telecommunications. According to a report by the usually well-

informed French newspaper *Libération*, conversations in the Russian language were allegedly picked up on the radio frequencies of the Iraqi army at the end of January and the beginning of February 1991, which would indicate a hushed-up military involvement of the USSR in Iraq.

The Defence Ministry in Moscow insisted that such reports were "false", claiming that they were attempts to not only cast a shadow upon Soviet policy but also "to discredit" the Iraqi armed forces, i.e. to give the impression that they were unable to offer resistance to the allied troops themselves.

The problem of the exchange of military information was closely connected with the unclarified question of military advisers. During the first few weeks of the Gulf conflict, it was claimed that the USSR was informing the U.S. about Soviet armament in Iraq. Later on, however, Soviet representatives denied all conjecture that the Americans had received confidential information on Iraq's military potential from the Soviet Union.

Reference was made to the treaty of friendship with Iraq, which forbids any passing on of classified information. There were also inconsistencies regarding the passing on of military data to Iraq.

The head of the Reconnaissance Department of the Soviet chief of staff, General Mikhailov, admitted that Iraq had asked the USSR to provide satellite reconnaissance data, but added that the Soviet side's response was a "categorical refusal".

The British and French press, on the other hand, claimed that Soviet experts had furnished Iraq with information on American satellite surveillance. This had enabled the Iraqis to remove weapon systems out of the field of observation of American reconnaissance. Furthermore, the USSR had altered the orbit of their satellites to include flights over Saudi Arabia.

The Iraqi aggression in Kuwait also put Soviet politicians in an awkward position due to the fact that Iraq had primarily built up its military power with Soviet help. Up to 90 per cent of the Iraqi military potential is said to have been provided by the Soviet Union. Although the USSR stopped its arms deliveries after the invasion of Kuwait a certain amount of pressure was needed on the part of the U.S. In the Soviet draft of the joint American-Soviet declaration of Aug. 3, 1990 the call for an arms embargo was put in parentheses, which means that the Soviet side did not want it included in the final wording. Mr. Shevardnadze was only willing to do so following a meeting with Secretary of State Baker.

According to remarks by high-ranking Soviet officials, the observance of the embargo against Iraq meant substantial financial losses for the Soviet Union.

(Continued on page 3)

Animals of Baghdad Zoo survived war on leftovers

By Nicholas Phyllian
Reuters

BAGHDAD — The animals of Baghdad Zoo survived the Gulf war thanks partly to scraps from the tables of the capital's hotels and restaurants.

The big cats got meat only once a week and look none the worse for it.

But for Hani the lion the crisis over the Gulf war posed a more frustrating problem — it blocked plans to find him a mate.

"We made use of food which they were throwing

away from the hotels," keeper Farhan Abid said of the war days.

"During the war even the lion and the tigers were given vegetables and bread," said Zoo Director Hani Hamza Mehdi.

"The bread was left over at the hotels," he said in an interview, adding that it also kept the monkeys and the ducks going.

Mr. Mehdi said the zoo dished up meat once a week for the carnivores, slaughtering donkeys bred for the purpose.

"We were afraid they might eat one another," he added, half in jest.

The zoo, in the Al-Zawra Park in central Baghdad, was a popular day out before the Gulf crisis. Five months after Iraq's defeat in the war, it is slowly returning to normal.

Families stroll from enclosure to enclosure, the children running excitedly ahead. The animals look less haggard and tatty than in the immediate aftermath of the fighting.

Peacocks preen themselves in the sunshine. The vultures, hunched on

their perches, watch the visitors with a studied indifference.

The tigers, bred from a pair brought in from Qatar in 1984, doze at the back of their cage.

The brown bear tucks into a mid-morning snack of vegetables and grapes.

"We do not have problems with the food now," Mr. Mehdi said.

Donkey is still on the menu, which is just as well with meat in the shops more than five times its pre-crisis price.

But Mr. Mehdi said the

zoo was running out of medication because of the U.N. trade blockade imposed after the invasion of Kuwait last August.

The zoo moved to its present site in central Baghdad in 1973. There had been a small zoo elsewhere in the capital since the 1950s.

During the war, which coincided with the cold of winter, lack of power for heating took its toll on the zoo's population, wiping out the collection of tropical fish.

Other inmates did not even know there was war on. The U.S. cruise missiles

and smart bombs that obliterated Iraq's telecommunications system and smashed the nearby airport and strategic government ministries failed to wake the zoo's hedgehog.

"It was his time for hibernation," said one keeper.

Today the zoo has a mix of birds, carnivores, horses, deer, a camel and ... domestic dogs.

"It's something unusual for a zoo," Mr. Mehdi said. "Here in Iraq there are not many kinds of dogs. It's to show the people other breeds."

The zoo's oldest inhabitant is an ostrich.

The newest arrival is a puma, which some people say came from Kuwait.

Hani, a gift from Chad as a three-month-old cub, is now two years old and the only lion in Iraq.

President Saddam Hussein named him after Mr. Mehdi, who reared him by hand.

"Before Aug. 2 (1990) we had a contract to bring a lot of animals from Egypt including a mate for the lion," Mr. Mehdi said.

The zoo had built a special open-air enclosure for the

happy couple with a suite of four cages off it. The Gulf war brought plans to a halt.

Hani now pads restlessly up and down his cage in the lion house. He roars and lunges angrily at keepers and visitors — one reason why the lion house is closed to the public.

Mehdi says that Hani, who is patently bored on his own, would be ready for a mate in about six months. "Maybe with a female he would be more relaxed."

But with no sign of an early lifting of sanctions, he could be in for a long wait.

Silent Sonia Gandhi sets Delhi buzzing

By Michael Battye
Reuters

NEW DELHI — Pressure is mounting on Sonia Gandhi to step on to India's political stage, but the widow of assassinated former Premier Rajiv Gandhi is keeping the country guessing.

Her public silence has plunged India into an orgy of speculation over whether she is about to launch her own political career and what impact that might have.

She speaks rarely to journalists and those who have been in contact with her have different impressions of what she will do.

Some say Italian-born Gandhi, 44, has decided to run for Amethi, the parliamentary constituency her late husband won posthumously after his assassination on May 21.

Politicians also have different ideas about her intentions. "She will go to Amethi on Aug. 20 and announce she's going to run," said one senior member of the Congress Party, which the Nehru dynasty ran for decades until Rajiv Gandhi's assassination by a woman suicide bomber.

He would have been 47 on Aug. 20.

"It's still a little uncertain, but if she does decide to run, it won't be as early as that," said another senior Congress member who was close to Rajiv Gandhi.

"She hasn't made up her mind and my impression is that she will decide against it," a long-time family friend said.

No one doubts Mrs. Gandhi would win Amethi in the critically important northern state of Uttar Pradesh, where Congress was almost wiped out in the elections that put in a new government in June.

The pressure is enormous

on her to run there. She campaigned hard for her husband in Amethi and Congress leaders said after his death they would accept no other candidate but her in the by-election, for which no date has been set.

Each day hundreds go to Mrs. Gandhi's heavily guarded New Delhi home to pay their respects.

Some urge her to take up politics so she can continue the line of prime ministers of independent India that began with Jawaharlal Nehru and was maintained with his daughter Indira Gandhi and grandson Rajiv Gandhi.

A vociferous minority in Congress organises delegations to urge her to run for parliament, promising support for a challenge to the leadership of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao.

Some are genuine believers in continuing the dynasty. Others, say their enemies in Congress, seek to use the magic of the Gandhi name to enhance or preserve their careers.

Mrs. Gandhi is torn, friends say.

"She doesn't want to get into power politics but she wants to keep Amethi to keep the option (of entering politics) open for the children," one said.

Neither her son Rahul, 21, nor daughter Priyanka, 19, have said whether they intend to enter politics.

Priyanka's calm and poise at her father's funeral — and her physical resemblance to Indira Gandhi — aroused speculation she will.

In India, a parliamentary candidate must be 25, adding to pressure on Sonia Gandhi to keep the seat open for Priyanka.

If she does decide to run in Amethi and enters parliament, there seems to be no way she can avoid becoming



Sonia Gandhi

embroiled in the eternal Congress power struggles. The Nehru Dynasty managed to stay on top by undermining anyone who appeared a likely challenger.

"She would be a very destructive influence because she will become an alternate power centre in the party and erode Narasimha Rao's already delicate position," said independent analyst and veteran Congress watcher S. Nihal Singh.

"Anyone unhappy with Narasimha Rao would gravitate to her side," he said.

Apart from those committed to the Gandhi family, there are others unhappy with Mr. Rao as he steers India through radical economic reforms.

They grumble that Mr. Rao is throwing overboard the revered Nehru's doctrines

by opening the protected economy to the outside world and abolishing bureaucratic regulations.

"Sonia's presence in parliament could split Congress," Mr. Singh said.

Some senior Congress members agree. "It might precipitate what so many have speculated about for so long, a realignment of politics with a split in Congress and the larger part merging with other centrist forces," one said.

Others disagree.

"The assumption that she's going to have an easy ride within the party is not true," said another. "A lot of MPs don't like the idea of her in parliament and those trying to sell her as a future prime minister have put a lot of backs up."

After 5 years in royal family, 'Fergie' is still honing image

By Anne Senior
Reuters

LONDON — A new woman has appeared on Britain's royal circuit — a well-groomed, 31-year-old redhead with a trim figure and a wardrobe fit for a princess.

Could Prince Edward, Queen Elizabeth's youngest son, be courting a mysterious older woman? Could this be a royal darling and international pin-up of the future, a rival even for the glamorous Princess Diana?

No, this is the same Sarah Ferguson who walked up the aisle with Edward's elder brother Andrew five years ago, but now minus those familiar flowing locks and re-benesque curves.

The Duchess of York, as she became on her marriage, is trying hard to cast off her image as a full-figured "fashion frump," and is working on a slimline look combining designer elegance with a hint of sex appeal.

Her flame-red mane of hair, which Prince Andrew called her crowning glory, has been cropped into a shoulder-length bob.

Her rounded figure, which drew dozens of media taunts when it was clad in lavish creations and square-shouldered suits, is at least a size smaller now and is shown to its advantage in waisting dresses and skimpy gowns.

Newspapers and fashion-writers have mostly approved of the transformation, but some commentators are not entirely happy with what has happened to fun-loving, fresh-faced "Fergie."

"Elegant, but is it me?" asked London's local daily the Evening Standard in a full-page analysis of the new look duchess, shown in a silk cocktail dress cut just above the knee, with a chiffon scarf thrown across bare shoulders.

The vivacious, free-spirited woman who made a pre-

wedding vow she would never diet to please the British public has given in after all. She has been "remade in the royal image," it said.

The bride-to-be was adamant she would retain her individuality and never succumb to image-makers. "I'm not going to get thin. I'm not going to change a lot," she declared in an interview before her wedding in London's Westminster Abbey in July 1986.

"I'm just going to be me," she said.

Her Edwardian-style wedding dress was a sensation. Cut to flatter an hour-glass figure, it had style writers predicting "the Fergie form" would bring curves back into fashion.

In the end, it was "Fergie" who dieted and exercised herself into a shape more like the modern stereotype of female beauty.

The Evening Standard decided the duchess was trying too hard to win public favour and wished she had held out against the notion that royal ladies come in only one size — slim.

"It is time for Fergie to start throwing her weight around against those who want the royal family to be stereotyped and uninformed," the newspaper said.

Fat or thin, it seems the duchess cannot please the media and the masses who follow every move the royal family makes.

In the five years since her marriage, the Duchess of York has gone from being a royal darling fêted by the media to the most criticised female member of the royal family — an unenviable position once held by Princess Anne, Queen Elizabeth's straight-talking daughter, and before that by the queen's sister Princess Margaret.

Her exuberance, which went down well in the United States during a visit with her sailor husband, seems to jar



The Duke and Duchess of York

with the tradition-bound British who expect decorum from their royals.

Now that her clothes give less cause for complaint, the duchess has been lambasted for expensive tastes, the design of her ranch-style "palace dallas" home, and for being friendly with show business personalities.

Her attempts to continue an independent career got her into trouble when it emerged that she could be pocketing some of the profits from a set of children's books she had written.

She was called a bad mother when she left her baby daughter Beatrice at home while she went on a royal business trip. But when she spent more time at home with Beatrice and her second daughter Eugenie, the duchess was accused of being work-shy.

Princess Anne, who has a son and a daughter, once

admitted she didn't like children at all. She got away with it because she is considered hard-working and devoted to duty.

Ingrid Seward, royal biographer and editor of Britain's Majesty magazine, says the duchess has been deeply hurt by the criticism, especially the charges that she spends too much time enjoying herself and is forever on holiday.

"Up until the queen's generation, royal ladies did very little. Nor were they expected to. Apart from the occasional charity engagement they lived a life of leisure befitting their position," Ms. Seward wrote in a book on the duchess.

"Because Sarah is an achiever, she is not content just to be the wife of the Duke of York," Mrs. Seward said. "Sarah's ambition is to find a niche for herself within the working scope available to members of the royal family."

Oddsson — once a humorist, now Iceland's premier

By Karin Davies
The Associated Press

REYKJAVIK — David Oddsson used to make fun of the government. Now he's the prime minister.

"I read that a radio station was taking over the post of prime minister," he said in a U.S. interview.

That was 20 years ago, so Oddsson, 43, said of his former position. "This job is different, completely different, because you have the ministers here and they are all kings in their own fields."

In law school, Mr. Oddsson collaborated with a fellow student on such radio comedies as "I Shall Enrich My Country" a spoof of the body politicians. On his

own, he wrote Dirty White Collar, about politics, corruption and the press.

Humour remains part of the Oddsson style, but the former mayor of Reykjavik also is a determined politician learning to operate in a coalition.

"The mayor is running the show completely," Mr. Oddsson, 43, said of his former position. "This job is different, completely different, because you have the ministers here and they are all kings in their own fields."

Ingibjorg Solrun Gisladottir, an opposition city council member, said Mr. Oddsson

might have difficulty making deals.

"This is his weakness, because he is used to being aggressive and has no experience in finding a compromise," she said. Though acknowledging that his humour could be an asset.

Mr. Oddsson expressed his agreement this way: "I once heard somebody say that another politician had no sense of humour, so it was impossible to take him seriously."

After nine years as mayor, Mr. Oddsson challenged and defeated the leader of the conservative Independence Party in March and led it in

the April national election, winning 26 of 63 seats in the Althing, the world's oldest parliament.

His programme includes deregulation and market-oriented policies for fishing and agriculture to boost the moribund economy.

The previous government, led by the centrist Progressive Party, imposed austerity that kept wages and prices down and produced a trade surplus last year, but the gross national product and private consumption declined.

About 254,000 people live in this volcanic land, which brushes the Arctic circle in the North Atlantic.

Its citizens are among the world's most affluent, life expectancy is long and infant mortality almost nil. But the economy is based on a single commodity: Fish.

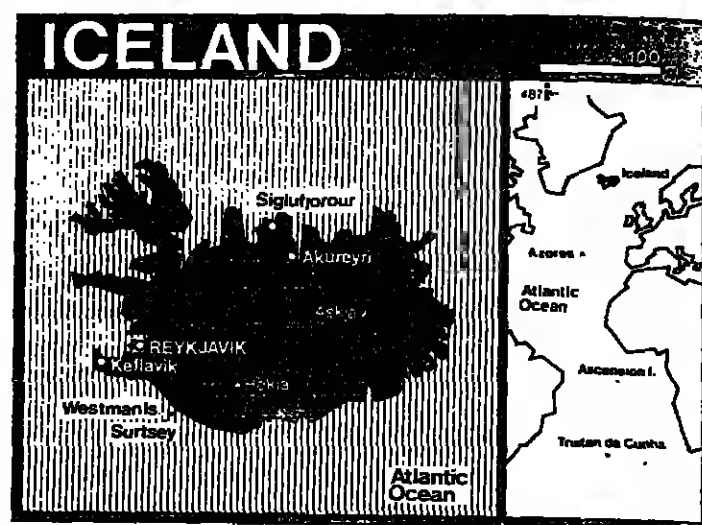
Oddsson said his greatest challenge is to diversify. Exploitation of hydro and geothermal power are at the top of his list, including a proposal to export electricity to Britain through a 950-kilometre underwater cable.

There is also talk of building a huge aluminum smelter. He is in a hurry, Mr. Oddsson explained, because "prime ministers don't tend to sit very long in office in Iceland. I could be a very young ex-prime minister."

As a boy in rural Selfoss, Mr. Oddsson wanted to be a doctor like his father and grandfather. Then, in his teens, he worked as an usher in a movie theatre, developing a passion for words that led him to become a playwright, journalist and book editor.

Of his literary talent, the prime minister said: "I know that I'm a part-time, amateur writer. I like to do it like other people like to go golfing... I am not a writer to be taken seriously."

His latest drama is a childhood reminiscence that includes a dream about God dropping chewing gum from the sky instead of rain. It has



been produced for television by Hrafn Gunnlaugsson, one

of Mr. Oddsson's old radio partners.

Siblings: Pros and cons

By Maha Addasi

Many parents face the problem of sibling quarrels with broad minds, usually doing their utmost to solve matters as fairly as possible so that their children do not feel that the parents love one sibling more than the other. The conclusion is that parenthood is tough. The solution is to go to the bottom of the problem and see why siblings fight. By talking to siblings more light was shed on the reasons behind these quarrels. Here are a few of those:

"The reason why I quarrelled with my younger brother was that he stopped listening to me. When he was three and I was seven, I'd say: 'Get me water, get me a sandwich, go turn the lights off or, go answer the phone. He would. So I'd say 'jump' and he'd say 'how high?' This continued for a year and then, my troubles began. He grew up."

One person said: "I started to get some resistance from him. I would ask for water and he'd get it for me on the condition that when he asked for water I would get it for him. He was asking for equality. To me that spelled disaster. So I solved the water problem. Whoever wanted water went and fetched it themselves. The power game had begun."

"I am a middle child between two sisters," said one girl, "and life is not easy. 'Although there are no direct conflicts between me and my sisters I get caught in the crossfire when my older sister quarrels with my younger sister,' she said. 'My older sister expects me to side with her, and my younger sister feel I will side with her. And I end up all alone staring at the ceiling trying to pretend I didn't know they were fighting. You must understand that that in itself is an ordeal because when they fight the whole house vibrates from their thunderous voices,' she said."

"Clothes are my source of fighting with my brother and sisters," one person said. "My brother and both my sisters are attracted to my shirts. I would think that a certain favourite shirt is in the laundry then I would bump into my sister and lo and behold she'd be wearing my shirt. It drove me nuts. Now when I buy my shirts I take them home and let my brother and sisters choose the shirts they want before I get attached to them. And then I'd offer to sell it to them. So when they figured that they had to pay for the shirts they stopped wearing my clothes," he said. "Money has its way with people."

"I think sibling quarrels, when they're over trivial matters, become a good source of funny memories," one woman said. "But good parental supervision should ensure that no problems turn serious so that siblings don't grow up holding grudges. Unfortunately that wasn't the case with us. When I was young my older brother used to pinch me until my



arms turned blue, but he gave me the liberty of choosing whether I wanted a big pinch or a small pinch. It was a dilemma. They were both killers.

"Today he lives in the apartment above mine. Although he doesn't pinch me any more he still has not matured past that sibling quarrel stage. So one day when his bathroom needed fixing because of a leak, he asked the plumbers to fix it by drilling through the ceiling of my bathroom that is directly below, so that he would save himself the trouble of having workers in his house as that would 'inconvenience him' she said. "And I thought pinching was bad."

"I think that parents should have a more direct role in how their children interact with each other," said one woman who is continuously at conflict with her siblings. "It was awful how we verbally attacked each other because we knew everything good and bad about each other. So when we wanted to hurt we hit low. Our parents never did much to tell us the perils of such words," she said.

But parents have different opinions. "It is very difficult to keep siblings from fighting. If you don't want fight among siblings, have one child," goes the philosophy of one father, no doubt a victim caught in the middle.

He said Eastern Europe had especially high rates.

The highest on Ms. Weinberger's list was 95 per cent of all couples in Czechoslovakia in 1977. She said one reason the figure for Czechoslovakia was high was that couples there were asked if they had ever used contraception, while questions elsewhere were more limited.

"Most of the difference in levels of use in the developing and developed countries is due to higher levels of use of traditional methods such as rhythm and withdrawal in the (developed) countries," she said.

For the United States, the rate was 74 per cent in 1988. Proportions in Western Europe were higher: 84 per cent in Norway, 80 per cent in France and 77 per cent in west Germany. The 13 per cent German women who did not provide an answer were assumed not to be using contraception.

The rate in Japan in 1988 was 56 per cent.

More than half world's couples use contraception

"Most countries where use of female sterilisation has grown rapidly are ... in Asia or Latin America ..." Ms. Weinberger told a conference on population and health surveys.

"This method stands out as having the greatest increase in prevalence and the highest current prevalence of any method."

Another 11 per cent of couples use intra-uterine devices (IUDs) and 7 per cent pills.

"Condoms, rhythm and withdrawal are each employed by 4-5 per cent of the world's couples," she added.

In the third world, just under half the couples — 48 per cent — were estimated to

use contraceptives and she said the number is growing rapidly. Her estimates were based largely on figures from demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), a privately-managed enterprise funded by the U.S. government's Agency for International Development (AID). DHS is sponsoring the three-day conference, which ends Wednesday.

Her figure for wealthier couples — 71 per cent of couples — was based on earlier surveys, some going back to 1975.

"Since those countries reached a high level of use back then, we think the rates have not changed much since," Chamie explained.

By Carl Hartman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than half — 53 per cent — of the world's couples use contraception, U.N. population officer Mary Beth Weinberger estimated Tuesday.

A large proportion — one out of five — are sterilised, 16 per cent of the women and 4 per cent of the men. One reason for the high proportion is the number in China and India, she explained. She said sterilisation is also increasing in the United States.

Critics of India and China say some of the sterilisation in both has been compulsory.

Ms. Weinberger said she could not comment on that. "I've read the newspapers like you," she said in an interview.

Ms. Weinberger's estimates did not include abortion as a form of contraception. Joseph Chamie, assistant director of the U.N. population division, said in an interview that his office is making a separate study of abortion.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Aug. 22

1798 — French forces land in Ireland.

1910 — Japan formally annexes Korea.

1911 — Leonardo da Vinci painting Mona Lisa is stolen from Louvre Museum in Paris, France. It is recovered in Italy in 1913.

1941 — Nazi troops reach outskirts of Soviet city Leningrad in World War II.

1972 — Rhodesia is asked to withdraw from 20th summer Olympic Games because of its racial policies.

1986 — Angolan guerrilla leader says Soviet-aided government forces have started using chemical warfare in 10-year struggle for control of nation.

1989 — Colombia's foreign minister discourages any military intervention by United States in struggle against that country's drug barons.

1990 — Scores of angry smokers block street near Moscow's Red Square to protest summer-long cigarette shortage.

Friday, Aug. 23

1813 — French are defeated by German army under Friedrich von Bulow, preventing march on Berlin.

1839 — Hong Kong is taken by British in war with China.

1908 — Abdul Aziz of Morocco is defeated at Marrakesh by Mulai Hafid, the new Sultan.

1927 — Nubas Pasha becomes leader of the Wafd in Egypt.

1937 — Japanese military forces land at Shanghai, China.

1944 — Allied troops in France capture port of Marseilles in World War II.

1952 — Arab League security pact goes into effect.

1958 — China begins bombardment of island of Quemoy.

1964 — Foot bridge collapses over River Gorge in Venezuela, and 29 people fall to their deaths in rapids below.

1975 — Communists complete takeover of Laos.

1986 — Leaders of nine southern African nations, meeting in Angola, express support for international economic sanctions against South Africa.

1987 — Iraqi warplanes bomb key Iranian petrochemical complex of Bandar Khomeini.

1990 — U.S. announces at least 46,000 reservists will be called to active duty to meet troop needs in the Gulf; Republic of Armenia passes declaration of independence, as Estonia begins formal negotiations with Kremlin on separation from Soviet Union.

1991 — Mount Vesuvius erupts and buries Italian cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

1654 — French, under Prince of Conde, raise siege of Arras, Belgium.

1896 — Russia invites major world powers to cooperate in reducing armaments.

1921 — Turks, in Battle of the Sakarya, prevent Greek forces from reaching Ankara.

1922 — Arab Congress at Nabulus rejects British mandate for Palestine.

1939 — Nazi Germany and Soviet Union sign 10-year non-aggression pact.

1953 — Kenya government calls on Mau Mau to surrender.

1964 — Fireworks explosion in Atlatahuca, Mexico, during religious celebration kills 45 people and injures 33.

1965 — United Arab Republic of Yemen sign cease-fire agreement.

1967 — Mobs from China repeatedly attack British positions along 27-kilometre Hong Kong border and are driven off with tear gas.

1968 — France explodes hydrogen bomb at South Pacific testing ground and becomes world's fifth thermonuclear power.

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Suzy

By E. Yaghi

In Anytown USA where prairie grass grows as high as corn and the summer breeze rustles leaves of protective birch trees, lived an Arab-American family who had one daughter named Suzy. That small American town was all Suzy had ever known and loved, after all, she was born and had grown up there. She was perfectly happy to go to school and play with her friends that she had known ever since kindergarten days.

But Suzy's parents weren't happy. One day her father who was a Palestinian said, "Martha, we must try to go back to Palestine. I'm sure you would love living there and Anytown's not a good place for Suzy to grow up in. What do you think?"

Suzy listened. She saw a slow smile spread across her mother's face. It seemed she liked the idea. "It would be thrilling to see a different country and see your relatives, Faried. I know you must be very homesick by now and desperately long for your country." With a grin and a shining expression she said, "Let's give it a try, but I don't think we'll have much luck. The situation is really hazardous right now in Palestine with the intifada and all. It might be dangerous for Suzy. On the other hand, I would like her to know the country of her heritage. I want her to always feel that even though I'm an American, she is also a Palestinian. I want her to be proud of that fact and learn about her people and country."

Suzy bounced off her chair and shouted: "All right!" It had been decided then. They would go back for a while at least so Suzy would get to know the country of her father and her ancestors. After a lengthy delay, they finally received the official documents that enabled them to travel to Palestine. "Daddy, are we going to fly in a Palestinian plane? What colour is it? I can hardly wait to see it and go to Palestine where all our relatives live!"

Her father looked disappointed. "No, my dear. There is no Palestinian plane. We must travel in an Israeli one. I'm sorry that we are considered less than second-class citizens and have no rights and certainly no such thing as our own airline."

In New York City, the excited family boarded the Israeli plane and headed for their beloved country. After an exhaustive flight, they landed in Tel Aviv. Already, at the airport, they knew that they would never be treated equally as Israeli citizens. Martha looked shocked. Suzy was stunned. For the first time in their lives, they felt what it was like to be Palestinians living in a Jewish state. Finally, in the middle of the night when only crickets were awake to sing, Suzy and her parents set out for Ramallah. They had decided to stay with his cousin until they could find a place of their own.

The next day, they were overwhelmed by welcoming relatives who hugged Suzy and her mother and tried to make them feel at home. It wasn't long until they settled down and Suzy started to go to school when classes were held. Suzy's father had a little money saved up so she was able to attend a private school. One dreary December day when rain steamed off streets, a very frightened Suzy was apprehended just outside her school by Israeli soldiers. One soldier grabbed her by the hair, hit her and then threw her into a military vehicle. This was the first violence Suzy had ever personally witnessed. She had always been over-protected when living in Anytown. Now her heart pounded in her head. She was wild with fear. She began to cry and pray at the same time, ignoring the other youth

who were in the vehicle with her. "Oh, please, dear God, please have mercy and let me go home! I haven't done anything wrong. Please dear God, I'm so afraid! Spare me pain and injustice!"

From the military van she was roughly taken to a prison where she was beaten and held for more than ten days without bail. She was never charged and her case was continuously postponed by the Israeli authorities.

Meanwhile, word passed by mouth that Suzy had been captured. At first, her parents did not know in which prison she had been confined or even in which city. They contacted the U.S. officials at the Jerusalem Consulate. Still no word about Suzy. "Faried, we must do something more!" A tearful Martha pleaded with her husband. "I won't stand by and not do anything. We must try to contact the State Department. Our Suzy's an American citizen!"

Faried shook his head. "So far being an American hasn't helped Suzy at all. She hasn't been given any special treatment just because she is a U.S. citizen. The Israelis certainly don't care. The Americans don't either. They all want to strike fear in every Palestinian's heart and drive them from their land and rights!"

Martha and Faried persisted in numerous meetings and calls to the State Department and they were assured that the case would receive closer scrutiny and that consular observers would be present at the hearings. But of course, these promised representatives would not appear until after four court dates, all held on Sundays. The scheduling dates was an attempt by the Israelis to limit any official American involvement since Sunday is not a working day for the U.S. embassy.

One year after her capture, Suzy's trial was finally concluded. She received a monetary fine and suspended sentence and a warning by the military judge that if she were ever arrested again, an automatic five-month sentence would be imposed.

When Suzy was released, she ran into her parents arms. "Mommy! Daddy! Please take me home. I want to go back to Anytown where I will never see a prison again or hate or beatings or fear! I don't want to be a Palestinian any more if this is the price I have to pay!"

Suzy and her parents weren't kicked out of their country by eviction papers or a transfer plan, but they left the West Bank for the U.S. in what is viewed as a de facto expulsion. The best weapon was fear. The victims were 12 year old Suzy and her family.

Now, again, Suzy skips rope once more with her American friends. She can never really relate her horrifying experiences to them. They would not believe her anyway. In spite of her traumatic imprisonment, she is trying to forget that one horrible year which turned out to be a nightmare. At night she listens to the wind whistling in the prairie grass and shudders when scenes of her torment come back to her. In Israel, Suzy, an Arab-American, was never treated as American at all, but as Palestinian. She is now free, but what about all the other Palestinian children? Will they forget their torment? Will they ever be free? Will their tears ever be dried by a kind and protective entity and their cold hands be warmed, and will they be able to live in the land of their forefathers as equal human beings with the inalienable rights that should not be denied to anyone in any country regardless of race, colour or creed?

The following events did actually happen. There are many more stories just as tragic and even more so than Suzy's.

Madrid in August — hot, empty and nice

By Robert Hart

MADRID (R) — Seven p.m. three cars line up at a traffic light. A few hundred metres down the four-lane boulevard another handful of cars wait at the next light.

Rush hour in Madrid in early August and there is hardly anybody around.

Aug. 1, five p.m. the streets of the city are jammed solid with traffic. Every highway out of town is saturated with cars inching their painful way forward under a sledgehammer sun.

Railway stations and the airport are packed with families with faces tired by waiting but still expectant.

The scenes are repeated in major cities all over the country. On Aug. 1 every year, whatever day of the week it may be, most of Madrid, almost all of Spain, goes on holiday.

"Operation exit" is under way. It will go on for a couple more days but Aug. 1 is the big one.

Radio stations provide blow-by-blow commentaries on where the worst hold-ups are and advice on how to avoid them.

Thousands of extra police

and paramilitary civil guardsmen are assigned to traffic duty to smooth the course of the holiday flood.

Helicopters patrol the length of the particularly heavily travelled roads leading to the beaches of Alicante and Almeria and the Costa Del Sol in the southeast and far south of the country.

Radio bulletins intersperse travel information with pleas to drive carefully and warnings of the danger of fire in country areas. Forest fires are frequent in this parched month.

As the third or fourth day of August dawns and the sound and fury subside, Madrid settles down on its ledge in the centre of the country for a month of heat and peace and quiet.

Suddenly there are places to park a car at the roadside in a city where normally you would be lucky to find a space on the deepest floor of the third underground car park you try.

Motorists driving a few kilometres to suburban homes in other months fix their gaze on the majesty of the distant mountains to ease the pain of the nose-to-tail

crawl. Now they are home so fast they barely have time to notice the view.

Every day Spanish national radio's early morning local news slots in Madrid are devoted entirely to the state of the traffic into the capital. During August the same voices, crackling in from motor cycle or helicopter, report in slightly incredulous tones on the absence of traffic jams.

There is space to breathe on the pavements. Buses and underground trains which usually resemble overcrowded sardine tins have seats to spare.

You can go to the cinema on a Sunday without standing in endless queues. Supermarkets which normally bulge with overheated customers are calm and cool and almost a pleasure to be in.

There are disadvantages. Restaurants tend to be crowded, but that is mainly because only one in six in the business areas of the city is open.

In the suburbs many small shops pull down the shutters. In the centre, the service department of a major Japanese camera company might be missing a business

opportunity by closing for the entire month.

Madrid is not alone in its August shutdown. A journalist calling the Barcelona Olympic Games organisers for information on a major sports event next month was told: "As this is August, could you call back on Sept. 1?"

The government goes on holiday in August too. Cabinet meetings wind up at the end of July and resume in September or, just possible, at the very end of August.

Local news agencies report at the end of July on where all the ministers are going for their holidays. One lone cabinet minister is left in Madrid to mind the shop.

For one blissful month the pace is slow, the atmosphere relaxed. It is hot — 38 degrees Celsius (100 F) is common — but generally low humidity makes it bearable.

But distant alarm bells may be ringing. A neighbour confided that she was depressed at how many people were still in Madrid this August.

Perhaps the pleasures of Madrid in August are catching on. Maybe it is being discovered.

B.C.



JTV PROGRAMME NOT RECEIVED

By The Associated Press

Haines, Hurt end feud to make acclaimed film



Actress Marlee Matlin and actor William Hurt arrive at the Academy Award ceremonies in 1987, the year their film *Children of a Lesser God* was nominated for Best Picture Oscar.

By Michael Miller
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Director Randa Haines and actor William Hurt have teamed up again after five years to make a second highly acclaimed film which critics say should win an Oscar.

Haines and Hurt fought often during the making of *Children of a Lesser God*, which became in 1987 the first movie directed by a woman to be nominated for an Oscar as Best Picture.

After making the film, the story of a teacher's relationship with a deaf pupil, Haines spent five years turning down script after script, waiting for the right one to come along.

When it finally landed on her desk, she said, she knew that if it was to succeed only one person could play the lead role — her old adversary Hurt.

In an interview at her Hollywood office, she told how she put aside her trepidations and telephoned Hurt.

"We talked about what it had been like and it seemed there had been a lot of changes in his life. He was different and he agreed that we should work together again," Haines said.

The result was *The Doctor*, based on the true story of Dr. Edward Rosenbaum of Oregon who developed cancer of the larynx at the age of 70 and wrote about his experiences as a doctor-turned-patient in "a taste of my own medicine."

Many critics, lauding the film, referred to the "team of Hurt and Haines", an unusual linking of star and director.

Said Haines of Hurt's performance, "I think he's surpassed anything he's ever done before."

Of their much-reported disagreements on the set of *Children of a Lesser God*, she said, "What is hard for people to understand is that whatever tempestuous stuff went on it had nothing to do with the work."

"We were never arguing

about the work itself. Sometimes people need conflict to get their juices flowing and so as a director you have to provide that. But we were always in creative agreement."

Five years later, she found a different Hurt.

"I think a lot of things have changed in his life which I guess are personal. I think there were some things he couldn't confront before," she said.

Hurt admits he has changed, telling the *Los Angeles Times* in an interview in which he praised Haines that he had matured in the last five years.

Asked why Hurt was vital to the success of *The Doctor*, Haines said, "because he is such an extraordinary actor."

The leading role of Dr. Jack McKee, who in the film is a 40-year-old heart surgeon, is a very complex character, she added.

"And Bill is capable of it. There are many thoughts and many conflicting feelings and emotions happening at

once (in the film). Bill brings that to a role. He has that sort of complexity and that intelligence."

"Also he loves a technical challenge. In *Children* he had to speak in two languages (English and sign language) at the same time. Here he had to become a surgeon and believably operate on people and I knew he could do that. His performance was quite extraordinary."

Asked if she thought the film would be an Oscar contender, she laughed and said, "I hope so. I certainly hope so."

Referring to her fear after *Children of a Lesser God* that she might not be able to repeat her success, she said, "that is always there. I'll have that trouble on the next (film). You think, 'what if I make another film and it's no good and it doesn't move people.'"

It was the theme as much as the subject that attracted her to *The Doctor*.

"I saw in (McKee) a guy who really seems to be on top

of the world. He has everything and yet I saw that, even before his world falls apart, everything has been on the surface."

Haines started as an actress but soon realized there was more excitement on the other side of the camera.

As a script supervisor she initially had no ambition to rise to the heights of director.

"I was happy doing a job where people didn't say 'but what do you really do?' and you have to say 'I'm really an actress but I'm working as a waitress'."

Now, as one of a small minority of female directors, she would like to see more women behind the camera but realizes the road to the top is a particularly rocky one.

"It's very hard for anybody to become a director. It just takes so much perseverance and luck. Somewhere on the list is talent, but I think even more important is luck and tenacity. So it's hard for anybody but I think it's harder for women."

Japanese, U.S. rice farmers meet in farming musical

By Elaine Kurtenbach
The Associated Press

TOKYO — A musical with the message that shared values of American and Japanese farmers can transcend a bitter trade dispute over rice is drawing large, approving crowds in rural Japan.

Audiences weep and laugh as the bicultural cast of "labour of love" air complaints Japanese and Americans often express, but rarely to each other.

"Wherever you look, everything's Japanese," sing members of a rice-growing family in Louisiana. "We supposedly won the war, but Japan's buying

Rockefeller Centre, Columbia Pictures. ... You guys come over here and buy everything, but we can't buy nothing."

The musical, a joint presentation of a Japanese theatre troupe and one from Seattle, is a rare artistic venture into U.S.-Japanese relations as the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor approaches.

Its theme reflects the widespread belief here that if Americans understood the efforts of Japanese farmers to preserve their traditional lifestyle, they might stop demanding that Japan lift its protective ban on imported rice. The play also expresses

deep sympathy for similar problems of American farmers.

Washington wants Japan to lift the ban on rice imports to help counter a perennial trade imbalance. Japanese farmers argue that their tiny plots, averaging less than two acres per family, cannot compete with large U.S. growers.

Rice would account for less than 5 per cent of trade between the countries if the market was opened, but is a symbol of the frustration Americans face in trying to penetrate other Japanese markets.

The musical is about Kenichi Suzuki, a young Japanese rice farmer who goes to Louisiana on an ex-

change visit and falls in love with Alicia Thibodeaux, spunky daughter of his Cajun host family.

Her father is unimpressed by the visitor, who kicks up his heels in new-found freedom and evinces no enthusiasm for farming.

Suzuki's family arrives and the men start trading jibes about the rice ban and other issues: Auto workers, pearl harbour and Hiroshima. When a storm blows up, however, they put aside their differences and rush to harvest the rice.

In the second act, roles are reversed as the Cajuns visit the Suzukis in the terraced mountains of northern Japan.

The musical ultimately focuses on the love of family and the land shared by all farmers. The families discover they are in the same struggle to keep their land in an age of declining profits and waning government support.

For both, farming is "a labour of love."

Touring Japan, staying in traditional inns and performing in Japanese has been a series of shocks and similarities for the nine American performers.

Learning her Japanese lines in less than a month was "the hardest thing I've ever had to do ... but it's very, very rewarding," said Kristie Sanders of Seattle. "The

people here give and give and give. Their attitude is great."

"We can't communicate too much, but we say a lot with smiles," said Patrick Ryan Sullivan of Florida.

Japanese cast members went from door to door, drumming up audiences in town that hadn't seen a live theatrical performance in more than 10 years. The Japanese were impressed when the Americans stayed late after a performance to help pack up the set.

Theatrical affection oozed from the Americans. The Japanese actors gradually discarded their stiff formality and started hugging back.

"We were surprised when they hugged us," said Kinji

Oyamada, who plays Kenichi, "but now we've grown used to it."

After the two companies, Furusato (Hometown) Caravan and One Reel of Seattle, agreed on the joint project two years ago, they planned to concentrate on the differences between the families. Visits to both countries yielded the opposite conclusion.

"The feelings were the same on both sides," said Katsuhiko Ishizuka, the co-director. "Instead of differences, I found similarities. When problems arise, like in this musical, it's because of differences of personality, not culture."

Ishizuka says he has no illusions about easing grassroots anger over trade issues.

Reports of 50,000 farmers in Tokyo demonstrating against opening the rice market raised fears among the U.S. cast that they would receive a hostile reception. Oyamada said, however, "The applause for the American cast was bigger than for us."

After the tour of Japan, the cast will adapt the musical for U.S. audiences. One of the U.S. tour stops will be Crowley, Louisiana, where signs along the highway read: "Don't buy Japanese cars. They don't buy rice from us."

A man of many talents Menotti — The Duke of Spoleto

By Clare Pedrick

SPOLETO, Italy — Gian Carlo Menotti detests centenaries and anniversaries. "If it's the bi-centenary of Mozart, I'd much rather do Beethoven," said the Italian composer. The remark is a measure of Menotti's individualism and his loathing for mass-marketed culture — his other great hate is television, which, he says, "buries its atom of gold under a pile of rubbish."

But it is also true that, like many artists, this musician is tormented by the need to walk a constant tightrope between art and commercialism. So in spite of his antipathy towards anniversaries, this year's Spoleto Festival — the now world-famous three-week programme of ballet, opera, theatre, cinema and concerts Menotti launched 34 years ago — featured a Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* in the year of the 200th anniversary of the composer's death. And for next year, he has discovered of America, he has been asked to compose an opera by the city of Madrid.

He has also had to give in on the subject of another anniversary, this time his own 80th birthday, which fell in July, when the Spoleto Festival was in full swing. "I can't see why there has to be so much fuss over an 80th birthday," said the twice over Pulitzer Prize-winner, widely acknowledged as Italy's greatest living composer and one of the most talented figures in the field of opera anywhere in the world. "When I was 79, I am sure I was no different. And hopefully I'll still be just as good at 1." Even so, Menotti

yielded with good grace as the small Umbrian town which affectionately nicknamed him "The Duke of Spoleto" feted him with a giant-sized birthday cake, a hot-air balloon and an impromptu concert in one of the town's most spectacular piazzas.

People who know Menotti well say part of his reluctance to celebrate his birthday is his difficulty in accepting that he is now 80. There is still much of the child in Menotti, they say, even though he is not above playing on his age when he wants to get his own way. Menotti really does look 20 years younger than his age, a factor he jokingly attributes to his mania for health food shops and vitamins. "I spend a lot of money in health food stores," he said. "I have so many bottles I could open my own store."

Menotti plays no sport other than an occasional bout of tennis, but he follows a hectic schedule, moving between his homes in New York, Spoleto, the Italian Dolomite Mountains and his hideaway mansion in Scotland, composing, directing and organising the two arts festivals that he has launched and nurtured over the years, the Spoleto Festival of the Two Worlds, and its American counterpart, started in 1977 in Charleston, South Carolina.

In the run-up to the Spoleto Festival Menotti was rehearsing up until midnight each day. As well as staging the festival itself, he also directed three of the shows. Two of the centerpieces were his own works — his most recent opera, *Goya*, written for the Spanish tenor Placido Domingo and first staged in 1986, and the closing choral

concert, *Missa O Pulchritudo*.

Composer, librettist, artistic director, playwright, poet and stage director, this Italian-born artist is a man of many talents. The 23 operas he has composed to date display an extraordinary diversity, encompassing every possible form — grand opera, comic and chamber. The first, written when Menotti was only 27, was produced by the New York Metropolitan Opera. Others have been performed in dozens of different venues, including Broadway, television, radio and even in churches.

Menotti writes his own librettos, and sometimes those of other composers. He has also written three concertos, a symphony, dozens of songs and choral pieces, short stories, plays, poems, TV and movie scripts. And he still finds the time and energy for a good battle. Menotti's other hat is as impresario, and at the Charleston Festival in May this year he had a full-scale row with the board of directors over the age-old topic of money and artistic content. "The board of directors has discovered the festival is big business, and so they want it to be directed by a businessman rather than an artist," said Menotti, with disgust.

New talent

Menotti's first festival, the Spoleto one, was launched with the idea of introducing Italian audiences to fresh and exciting new artistic talent. Artists from Africa and Asia have always been an important component of the lineup, even when it was rare to see them in Europe.

When Menotti and his friend and fellow musician,

the late Thomas Schippers, first mooted the idea, many people told them they were mad. The place they had chosen, a crumbling hill town in a remote corner of central Italy, had no facilities other than two beautiful, but run-down theatres that no-one had used for years. The only visitors who ventured to Spoleto were relatives of prisoners held in the top security jail housed in the castle which crowns the medieval town.

But Menotti was convinced the miracle could be worked: These days, Spoleto is ultrachic, crammed with restaurants, antique shops and smart boutiques. Tickets for the festival performances are sold out months in advance. Through the years many of the art world's biggest names have passed through Spoleto, for example dancers Margot Fonteyn, Rudolf Nureyev and Alvin Ailey; authors, actors and directors such as Edward Albee, Tennessee Williams, John Gielgud, Roman Polanski, Franco Zeffirelli and Luchino Visconti. And after the shows they have all been guests up on the flower-decked roof terrace of the house that Menotti bought for just \$6,000 more than 30 years ago.

"This terrace used to be a chicken coop," he said, sipping a glass of sparkling white wine and admiring the view, for the umpteenth time, of the facade of Spoleto's stunning 12th century cathedral.

Many of the famous names were not famous at all when they first came to Spoleto. Menotti has always made a point of trying to foster new talent and a large proportion of the casts and performers are young. Today, there are dozens of artists who either got their first break at

Spoleto, or performed there when they were still relatively unknown, including actor Al Pacino, Italian ballerina Carla Fracci, Arthur Mitchell of the Dance Theatre of Harlem Company and the exciting Spanish flamenco dancer Antonio Gades. "At the time he was penniless and living in Rome," said Menotti, recalling his first meeting with Gades. "He came to our office and said 'Maestro, let me dance.' After watching him for just two minutes I decided to take him on."

Some, like Gades, have never forgotten Menotti's help and have come back to the festival time and time again, even though the fees are not as high as those they could command elsewhere. Others have proved less grateful. "In general, gratitude is not a feature of this world," mused Menotti. "Unfortunately, when people become famous, they forget you, although there are exceptions. It is not so much the fault of the artists as the fault of the agents, and we cannot pay very much."

As for Menotti himself, his own works are far better known outside his native Italy than at home, he complains. The composer has never got on well with the Italian establishment opera houses such as the Scala in Milan. "They have blackballed my work," he said. Elsewhere, although Menotti's popularity is nothing like as great as it was in his heyday of the 1950s and 1960s, he continues, according to the U.S. magazine *Opera America*, to be the most performed opera composer in the United States. His works have been translated into at least 14 different languages and he continues



Affectionately known as the Duke of Spoleto for the renowned annual festival he launched years ago, Gian Carlo Menotti gets a hug from grandson Claudio, 4, for his 80th birthday.

to travel the world. He just received the gold medal for music from the U.S. National Arts Club and the Musician of the Year award from the *Musical America Directory* magazine.

Now, as he reluctantly contemplates old age, Menotti's fear is not of death itself, he says, but of not having enough time to do all the things he wants to. "Death and I are good friends, but that doesn't mean I'll invite him into my house," said the maestro. "What really terrifies me is that I will lose memory."

In a sense, Menotti's life has always been a race against the clock. Critics have accused him of leaving some of his works unpublished and he agrees that one of his main faults has been in trying to be too accommodating. At times, he says, he has allowed himself to be sidetracked at the expense of his own music.

"I like to be liked by people, but that is wrong," he said. "I should be nastier, more insistent. You have to defend your space and time, to give to your art." Menotti's own hell, he is fond of saying, can be summed up in two words: "Too late!"

In the future, says the musician, there will be less time spent on administration and directing, and more time putting his own artistic works in order, and composing new ones. Already, the order book is filling up. As well as the Madrid Opera, Menotti has been commissioned, together with nine other European composers, to co-write a Mass for Peace to celebrate the dismantling of the European Community borders in 1992. He is also contemplating a project to stage an Italian arts festival in New York City next year.

And in between the deadlines, Menotti's fervent wish is to spend more time with his

family — with his adopted son Chip, whom the maestro met and befriended when the younger man came for an audition, and with Menotti's 4-year-old grandson, Claudio. In trying to assess his dislikes and likes, Menotti comes up with many hates, he says. Among them are conceptual art, big, modern opera-houses, "that look like airports," musicals such as *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera*, rock concerts, \$90 million Van Goghs and television. But on the positive side of the balance sheet, Menotti's fair-haired grandson features very strongly, not least, he says, because the boy "assures me he will kill all my enemies with a plastic sword. I hide the television from him, so he won't hear rock music," said Menotti. "I play Mozart to him, and for the moment, he is listening. I'm hoping he will become a musician." — World News Link.

African family safety net fails in AIDS epidemic

By Michael Roddy
Reuter

ABIDJAN — Roger Fayeou pointed a thin finger at a volunteer hospital orderly and said, "without him I wouldn't be alive today."

Mr. Fayeou, 32, a skeletal man who says his legs are now too weak to support him, is terminally ill with AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) in an Ivory Coast hospital.

A native of Benin, he worked in Ivory Coast as a shipping agent. Now that he has no income, his wife and five children have gone home to live with relatives, leaving him alone.

Without the help of a volunteer organisation called Espoir-Cote d'Ivoire (Hope-Ivory Coast), Mr. Fayeou would have nothing but a bed and a bit of hospital food until he died. The hospital does not provide free medicines, clothes or other necessities.

"There are plenty of people here who have been abandoned," said the 28-year-old orderly, Espoir-Cote d'Ivoire volunteer Adama Nitiema.

"When the family finds out people have AIDS they just go away."

"Sometimes it's because they're scared of the disease, but also it's because they know it costs a lot of money for the medicine and the patient will die anyway."

Cash-strapped countries throughout Africa can't cope with the AIDS epidemic

overwhelming their health care systems.

Ivory Coast, which has seen its cocoa-based economy collapse due to low world prices, has one of the highest AIDS infection rates in the world. The disease is the leading cause of death among adult males in Abidjan.

The epidemic has knocked big holes in the traditional African health safety net provided by an extensive family network.

In Africa, families provide the food for hospital patients, do the washing up, change the bed linen and wash the clothes. When the patient has to come home — to convalesce or to die — the family is there.

But not necessarily for AIDS victims.

Mr. Fayeou depends on volunteers to help him survive in a spartan room with five other men at the infectious diseases ward of Ivory Coast's busiest hospital in the Treichville district of the capital Abidjan.

He said he had had only 10 cents worth of bread to eat the previous day.

The pills he takes to control chronic diarrhoea, which has left him weighing about 35 kilos, and were bought for him by Espoir-Cote d'Ivoire, have run out.

He smiled, despite what he said were shooting pains in his stomach and intestines.

"They tell me my entire stomach is infected," he said. "But when I get better I'm

going to go straight back to Benin — to my wife and children."

Mr. Nitiema and 22 other Espoir-Cote d'Ivoire volunteers make the rounds of the infectious diseases ward every morning. They greet patients, help them tidy up and arrange their bed linen.

In almost every bed there is a thin man who has barely enough energy to respond. Some of them do not know they are infected with the incurable AIDS virus that wrecks the body's immune system.

Ivory Coast, which reported 118 AIDS cases four years ago, told the World Health Organisation (WHO) it had 6,836 full-blown cases of AIDS as of March this year.

Health researchers estimate the number is at least six or seven times that.

"There could be 200,000 to 300,000 HIV infected people in this country in the next 10 years," said Dr. Kevin De Cock, who works for the U.S.-funded research programme Retro-Ci.

"The patients are flooding in... It is an enormous problem."

In Africa the AIDS virus is spread primarily by promiscuous sex without use of condoms.

Dr. Justine Agnes, one of the founders of Espoir-Cote d'Ivoire, said the AIDS problem is overwhelming. "People are afraid of AIDS, they are afraid of death. They know there is no cure. We

have to teach them not to be afraid."

Mr. Agnes, Belgian nun Sister Catherine Mausem and three doctors formed Espoir-Cote d'Ivoire last year to try to fill the gap left when families abandoned AIDS patients.

They readily admit their 22 volunteers are overwhelmed. Their funds — some two million CFA francs (\$6,700) are paltry.

"The economic crisis has really hit hard," said Dr. Makan Coulibaly, a co-founder of Espoir-Cote d'Ivoire and a member of the National AIDS Committee.

"And families just cannot deal with a patient who never gets well."

After failing at first to recognise the seriousness of the AIDS crisis, Ivory Coast has begun trying to stem the spread of the disease.

A condom marketing campaign run by the U.S.-based non-profit organisation Population Services International (PSI) started in February.

Project Director Peter Clancy expects to sell at least 1.5 million inexpensive condoms, 30 cents for a package of four, this year and is aiming at sales of 7.5 million condoms within six years.

"We want to sell them everywhere. We sell them in night clubs and hotels frequented by prostitutes. We sell them to the prostitutes themselves, who sell them to their clients," Mr. Clancy said.

Tests on monkeys raise optimism that an AIDS vaccine is on the way

By Klaus Koch

THERE are growing signs that a serum might be developed before the turn of the century to treat the Aids virus, HIV. Three years ago scientists were pessimistic about the chances of developing a vaccine at all. The latest report of success is from the primate studies centre at Göttingen University, where Gerhard Hunsmann and his staff have cured four out of seven rhesus monkey of SIV by giving them four inoculations over a period of 16 weeks.

SIV, or simian immunodeficiency virus, is closely related to its human counterpart and triggers an immune deficiency in rhesus monkeys that is similar to Aids in humans. Research scientists in the United States reported similar results in experiments with rhesus monkeys last year.

"Back to the roots" could be the motto of the Göttingen scientists' success. They used tried and trusted, if arduous, techniques to manufacture their serum. To produce a few milligrammes they had to isolate simian virus material from 100 litres of cell culture medium. Protein was extracted from the virus concentrate by means of a detergent, and any surviving viruses were deactivated by

ether treatment.

The solution was then given an admixture of aluminium hydroxide, an additive that backs up immunisation. Serum to treat influenza and measles has been manufactured in this way for over 20 years. The classic method of manufacturing vaccine used in Göttingen may seem safe, but a future HIV serum, if there is one, can hardly be made in this way. The risk of living virus impurities would need to be totally eliminated.

So the crucial virus constituents must now be identified so that they can later be produced by genetic engineering or bacteria or other cells.

This manufacturing technique has further advantages. There is no risk of infection during production. The vaccine can be manufactured in constant quality. Production costs are markedly lower.

The mixture used in Göttingen must be broken down into its constituent parts. Virus proteins can then be systematically identified which, singly or in combination, give protection from active viruses. The European division of labour that helped the Göttingen group to get where it is will prove helpful here too.

Nine institutes in six European Community countries coordinated research to cut

down on experiments with laboratory animals and to save time, money and resources. The success of research work at the German Primate Studies Centre vindicates the European dimension of what is officially known as the First European Aids Vaccines Trial.

The first questions to be answered are how long the four monkeys will retain their SIV immunity and whether the injection didn't work on the other three because the dosage was too low. In addition to the protective effect the Göttingen group hope they may have discovered another important detail. In the blood of the four monkeys on which the serum worked, and only in their blood, SIV triggered reproduction of a major cell group in the immune system, a group that includes the so-called T helper cells.

If this reaction, which can easily be measured, is found to be a sure sign of immunity, Professor Hunsmann says, about a year's research and many rounds of experiments with laboratory animals will no longer be needed. Instead of live monkeys, many experiments that are now needed in the quest for the virus constituents that do the trick can then be carried out on blood samples taken from the animals.

No matter how the crucial SIV proteins are identified, the next step must be to apply the findings to the human Aids virus. This, Professor Hunsmann says, is the earliest stage at which experiments on chimpanzees can be considered. Chimps, unlike rhesus monkeys, can be infected with the human Aids virus, but fail to develop the typical symptoms. Last year a group of U.S. scientists succeeded in vaccinating three chimpanzees, man's closest relatives in the animal world. But there are so few chimpanzees available that detailed long-term series of experiments cannot be carried out on them.

Finally, once an HIV vaccine holds forth lasting promise of protection from human immunodeficiency, tests on humans will be due. Experiments with risk groups such as homosexuals and, possibly, large-scale trials in highly endangered African cities would be needed to show whether and on what basis vaccination might reduce the risk of natural infection.

Planning is clear but it will definitely be a few years before this stage is reached. Until then Professor Hunsmann is mainly hoping "they will give us enough money and leave us in peace" — Die Welt.

Working party looks into the mysteries of a widespread sleeping sickness in Germany

By Claudia Eberhard-Metzger

WHEN Rolf S., 55, first consulted his family doctor he had a bad bruise on his forehead. He said he had just walked straight into a lamp in broad daylight and without a drop of alcohol inside him. No-one seemed to believe him. But he was simply no longer able to concentrate. He was tired out and always felt that way. He was getting in enough sleep, but even after 12 hours' sleep he felt tired in the morning.

He woke up with headaches and nodded off while reading the paper over breakfast. He had lost his job as a night-watchman after being repeatedly found fast asleep. He disliked driving in case he fell asleep at the wheel.

He had been tired for three years and his wife had just stopped sleeping in the same bedroom because she could no longer stand his loud snoring. His family might laugh at him but he was convinced he was suffering from some kind of sleeping sickness. He was referred to the sleep laboratory at the nearest university hospital, where the staff confirmed what no-one had been willing to believe.

Rolf S. was found to be suffering from the sleeper's form of apnoea, literally cessation of breathing, which is said to be the most widespread form of sleep-related breathing trouble. It is a complaint that seriously affects the entire body and can have lethal consequences, and it is, in every sense of the term, a dormant condition.

As recently as 10 years ago it was virtually unknown. Only in recent years has it been considered of any medical significance, with the result that the high number of cases in which it occurs has come to light. A Marburg University working party was one of the first to look into this mysterious complaint in Germany. It played a crucial

role in helping to understand its causes and to devise diagnosis techniques and treatment.

It recently held a conference in Marburg to mark the tenth anniversary of its foundation and experts were able to exchange information about sleep-related breathing complaints. About one man in 10 between the ages of 30 and 60 was said to suffer from apnoea, which makes it not a mere medical curiosity but a complaint that is no less widespread than chronic bronchitis.

"On balance," said Jörg Hermann Peter, the head of the Marburg sleep laboratory, "over two million Germans can be said to face the threat of apnoea; for over 200,000 of them it is a lethal risk."

People who are dozy in the daytime despite getting in over seven hours' sleep at night may suffer from apnoea. They are 90-per-cent likely to do so if they show signs of three other symptoms. These telltale symptoms are loud and irregular snoring, an excessive tendency to fall asleep during monotonous activity (red herrings that point to cardiac and circulatory complaints). Obesity is a further factor.

Patients suffer from extreme daytime fatigue, from morning headaches, impotence and poor concentration. Performance plummets, down to and including being pensioned off as disabled. And they are often a serious accident risk too. American surveys indicate that apnoeic motorists are a three times more serious accident risk than the average driver. "Serious accidents with fatal consequences are often caused by apnoea," Dr. Peter said.

What causes patients such trouble during the day begins at night. Healthy people sleep in accordance with a clear pattern. In apnoea patients this pattern is totally out of joint. They can't "recharge their batteries" in

their sleep because they don't go through the phases in which healthy sleepers are able to do so.

This is the result of alarm or awakening reactions triggered by the brain. They are literally life-savers; if the brain didn't emit them the sleeper would die of asphyxia. The apnoea patient does indeed suffer from a cessation of breathing: up to 800 times a night, or so sleep laboratory findings indicate. Apnoea is said to occur when breathing stops for at least 10 seconds.

That can happen to anyone, and as long as it happens less than five times per hour of sleep there is no cause for alarm. Ten times and more is the critical level. In infrequent cases breathing can stop for up to two minutes. During apnoea phases the muscle groups that are associated with breathing either fail to coordinate or don't get their act together at all. The throat muscles shut down and breathing stops.

Yet the patient isn't asphyxiated. The alarming lack of oxygen in the blood forces the brain to adopt a survival strategy. Throat muscles are activated and deep breathing sets in to redress the blood oxygen balance. That is the reason for apnoea patients' loud and irregular snoring. Their apnoea phase ends, the body is awakened, breathing is coordinated again — and the sleeper sleeps on.

But it isn't a healthy, refreshing sleep. Its natural course is interrupted. The patient wakes up feeling shattered, irritated and badly in need of sleep, and patients in an advanced stage of the complaint tend to fall asleep during the day. This sleep upset doesn't just affect the patient mentally and socially; it also has immediate physical consequences, especially in respect of heart and circulation. Nearly two out of three apnoea patients have high blood pressure and many suf-

fer from serious cardiac irregularities.

The more often they stop breathing in the night and the longer they do so, the more dangerous the condition becomes. "If it isn't treated," Dr. Peter warned, "the patient's life expectancy will decline markedly." There is no cure. But if the condition is spotted in good time and treatment given, the symptoms can be fully remedied. In mild cases losing weight can bring about a marked improvement.

Alcohol and heavy food ought always to be avoided, especially in the evening. Sleeping tablets and tranquilisers should be avoided too. Patients must train themselves to abide by a regular pattern of sleep and waking states. They should try to avoid not getting enough sleep and to take a 30-minute nap at lunchtime to stop themselves from involuntarily nodding off during the afternoon.

In serious cases Theophyllin is prescribed. If there is no improvement the patient must wear a mask in his sleep. Air is constantly pumped into the mask at slight above atmospheric pressure, thereby keeping the respiratory passages open. This treatment was introduced about 10 years ago. It is cumbersome but extremely successful. Cessation of breathing and snoring stop, sleep returns to normal and patients wake up feeling rested and recovered.

Success rates of over 90 per cent are reported, which makes the mask by far the most effective means of treating apnoea in sleep. The patient wears the mask at home in bed but it needs servicing from time to time and the patient is given a periodic medical too. In Marburg over 600 patients have been equipped with this equipment. Its only drawback is that it must be used for life. But patients seem to feel that is a minor drawback — Die Welt.

Parental occupations do not increase risk of prematurity

LONDON (AP) — Parental exposure to chemicals or other substances on the job does not affect whether children are born prematurely or at a low birth weight, according to a study published in this week's *Lancet*.

Mounting fears that chemicals or other work-related exposures adversely affect sperm or damage a fetus prompted researchers to review birth records of 252,147 babies born between 1981 and 1984 in Scotland.

"The data indicate that neither maternal nor paternal occupational exposures have strong effects on the risk of prematurity," said Dr. Eve Roman, an investigator at the Imperial Cancer Research

Fund at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford.

Babies born before 37 weeks of pregnancy are premature. Birth weight less than 5.5 pounds is classified as low.

Dr. Robert W. Miller, the chief of clinical epidemiology at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, said in a telephone interview the study is "reassuring" because there was no large cluster of low weight or premature babies born to parents of a particular profession.

Overall, 5 per cent of the babies studied were too light, and 5 per cent were premature. Among 15 categories of

manual labour, investigators did find that women who worked with leather, metal or electrical goods were 50 per cent more likely to have low birth weight or premature babies compared to females who worked with paint, paper or wood.

They also found that men who worked with ceramics were more likely to father babies born too light or too early.

But Dr. Miller said the findings could have been due to chance, or to factors not related to work, such as smoking.

Cigarette smoking is known to increase the risk of having a low birth weight

baby. The investigators did not look at parental smoking. "It doesn't mean it's a real risk, but the potential links we've found warrant further research," Roman said in a telephone interview.

Dr. Teresa Schnorr — an epidemiologist at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in Cincinnati, Ohio — said the "study is a good initial step to identify occupations where hazards may really be a problem."

For instance, she said in a telephone interview, other researchers may want to study more closely women who work with leather or electrical goods.

Scientists struggle to answer why we hurt as much as we do

By Christine Tierney
Reuter

MONTREAL — Medical science, despite all its advances through the centuries, is still trying to wrestle with an age-old question — how to control pain.

Dr. Patrick Wall of the University College of London recently opened a symposium on pain in Montreal with evidence of the "bad state of the field." He cited a recent study in Newcastle that showed current pain therapies either failed to relieve or aggravated the discomfort of 75 test patients recovering from chest surgery.

"Anyone who's had arthritis, shingles or low back pain knows their pains are not being adequately treated," Dr. Wall said.

The problem is universal. Although different cultural groups express pain in different ways, with some exhibiting greater stoicism than others, Dr. Ronald Melzack

of McGill University said pain thresholds vary little among individuals.

Women tend to have higher thresholds than men, according to a recent University of Montreal study, but the overall range is narrow.

Most scientists today subscribe to the gate control theory of pain, developed by Dr. Wall and Dr. Melzack in the 1960s, that suggests the nervous system can modify sensations.

"It says the transmission of

nerve signals from an injured area in the body can be inhibited or facilitated. There are gates that can be opened or closed," Dr. Melzack said.

Evidence that the brain can send signals to interfere with the transmission of pain came with the discovery in the 1970s of the brain's own opiates, called endorphins. Psychologists have applied this knowledge to develop therapies based on relaxation and distraction.

Cancer hopes — much more than a kiss under the mistletoe

WHEN Miraculix mixed his magic potion in the Asterix comics for heroes Asterix and Obelix, it always contains a sprig of mistletoe.

Pliny the Elder, 24-79 AD, said Celtic priests or druids used to cut mistletoe from its host tree with a golden sickle, caught it in a white cloth and sacrificed it to the gods with an ox.

In the ancient world mistletoe was widely regarded as a token of salvation and a symbol of immortality.

Research scientists at the

Max Planck Institute of Experimental Medicine in Göttingen have taken a closer latter-day look at the curative properties of mistletoe.

Together with colleagues in Cologne and the United States they have proved the existence, in mistletoe, of a special protein, ML1.

It stimulates the immune system and has been found in experiments with mice to keep killer cells in the body on the move.

"When we started our research work in 1987," says

Dr. Hans-Joachim Gabius, head of the research team, "we never imagined we would make such headway."

ML1 is a lectin and plays an important part in inter-cell communication. It latches on to the surface of white blood corpuscles, which then emit zytocins.

These messenger substances activate the immune system. A billionth of a gramme of lectin per kilogramme of body weight is said, when injected, to reactivate a disturbed immune system.

"More doesn't have any greater effect," Dr. Gabius says. Patients may then have fever or muscle pains; they are signs that the injection is having the desired effect.

Injections should be given at intervals, with at least two days between each jab. The mistletoe may one day help cancer patients whose immune system is immobilised.

"We shall have to wait and see what results clinical studies come up with," Dr. Gabius adds — *Hamburger Abendblatt*.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD NOT RECEIVED

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Soviet policy in the Gulf

(Continued from page 4)

Union, up to \$10 billion in the year 1990. In order to, on the one hand, offset these losses and, on the other hand, not completely lose military influence in the region the Soviet Union tried to find new Middle East markets for the sale of its weapons during the Gulf conflict.

In September 1990 Radio Moscow announced that Iran was to receive a supply of the latest Soviet MIG 29 fighter-bombers.

On Jan. 4, 1991 a Soviet ship was stopped by Spanish and American patrol boats in the Red sea. It had 160 tonnes of military cargo on board, which was allegedly on its way to Jordanian armed forces; its true destination, however, was assumed to be Iraq.

In January 1991, 50 Iraqi navy officers began their training at a naval base near Riga, where Iraqi officers had been trained up until November 1990.

At the beginning of February 1991 Syria's Defence Minister Tlas visited the Soviet Union. He announced that a series of agreements had been concluded on the modernisation of the Syrian armed forces and on the maintenance of its "combat ability". French military sources reported supplies of military material and spare parts to Iraq, which did not have the corresponding Soviet weapons. An indication of secret military aid to Iraq.

The degree to which the Soviet leadership dissociated itself in the final stages of the Gulf war from its position at the beginning of the crisis with respect to the question of arms supplies to Iraq became clear during the last days of the allied offensive and the period which followed.

In February 1991 the members of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR called upon Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh to ensure that Iraq received military aid from the USSR for defence purposes. Mr. Bessmertnykh refused.

During the numerous press conferences in Moscow at the end of the military conflict, however, no high-ranking Soviet functionary or politician was willing to answer the question how future relations between Moscow and Baghdad would be shaped. Both Deputy Foreign Minister Belonogov and the president's spokes-

man Ignatenko gave an evasive answer to the question whether the Soviet Union was still willing to supply arms to Iraq. Mr. Belonogov simply remarked that the U.N. Security Council resolutions made no mention of future limitations for Iraq. Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh rejected a unilateral Soviet ban on arms supplies and added that this question could only be resolved through a common approach by all arms-exporting nations.

Britain's Prime Minister John Major was also given no assurances during his visit to Moscow at the beginning of March 1991 that the Soviet Union would not help Iraq rebuild its military potential. The Soviet side argued that Iraq would not only need replacements for the defensive weapons destroyed during the war, but also weapons "to a modest extent" to safeguard the military balance of power in the region.

During the negotiations on the ceasefire arrangements in the U.N. Security Council the Soviet Union tried to ensure that Iraq could keep a number of short-range missiles with a range of up to 340 kilometres. Thanks to pressure by the USSR, Iraq is allowed, in accordance with Resolution 687, to retain missiles with a range of up to 150 kilometres, even though the original resolution draft envisaged the destruction of all Iraqi ballistic missiles.

The consequences of the Gulf war from a Soviet angle

The analyses of the military action in the Gulf region presented in the Soviet media at the beginning and at the end of the war gave an insight into the current expectations and hopes of the Soviet military and security policy establishment. At the beginning of the war there was a striking emphasis of the strength of the Iraqi army and the prediction that the war would end without a victory and with a mere Pyrrhic victory by the U.N. coalition.

The head of the Centre for Strategic-Operative Research of the Soviet General Staff, General Bogdanov, refused to predict an Iraqi defeat. After the superiority of Western high-tech weapons could no longer be denied, it was

claimed that the theatre of war in the Persian Gulf had become a testing ground for sophisticated weapons systems, with tests "on living material." As the defeat of the Iraqi army came nearer, efforts were made to prove that the poor professional qualities of the Iraqi army, not the inferiority of Soviet weapons, had brought about the outcome of the war.

In February 1991 Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh told the Supreme Soviet of the USSR that there were no "double standards" in the USSR's position on the Gulf conflict. This and similar declarations by the Kremlin, however, compared with numerous anti-American and pro-Iraqi statements. In September 1990 the chief of General Staff of the Soviet armed forces, Army General Moiseyev, warned against the escalation of the Gulf crisis into a world war. This scenario was taken up consistently in the Soviet propaganda. In order to be able to correspondingly define the military conflict in the Gulf region a new concept was coined: "sub-world war." The Gulf conflict led, especially during its final stages, to an escalation of anti-American propaganda in line with long-standing patterns. The U.S. was branded as a bellicose state, and NATO as a rival military alliance.

Soviet analyses and commentaries focused a great deal of interest on the problem "Gulf and NATO." Some authors viewed the Gulf war as "a model of a hypothetical war between the Warsaw Pact and NATO, and the anti-Iraqi coalition of the allied forces was equated with NATO. Army General Lobov, chief of staff of the Warsaw Pact, openly claimed that NATO was basically operating in the Gulf beneath the flag of the U.N. coalition.

In the opinion of the party organ Pravda, NATO could try to take advantage of the Gulf war to impose its power on the region. The army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda wrote that the North Atlantic Union had assumed the functions of a coordinator of military preparation since the early days of the conflict.

The Gulf conflict had given fresh impetus to those forces in NATO which advocated the bloc's military strength. The bloc was planning additional measures to modernise the armed forces and the military infrastructure in Southern Europe; the NATO

committees had discontinued their work on reduction programmes. NATO's reaction to the Gulf crisis could jeopardise everything which had been achieved in the field of disarmament in Europe and in the world.

Soviet criticism of the policy pursued by the U.S. increased after military action began in the Persian Gulf. From the Soviet point of view the real provocative factors were the U.S.'s geostrategic gains and the corresponding losses of the USSR in the Middle East and on a global scale. The events in the Persian Gulf were and are, therefore, viewed by a number of groups in the Soviet leadership through the prism of the old "zero-sum" pattern. The new prestige of the U.S. and the growing questionability of the Soviet claim to a role as world power in view of the dire internal crisis shape the reaction to the outcome of the Gulf conflict; both the current foreign as well as domestic policy problems confronting the country centre on these aspects.

Critics of the Soviet policy in the Gulf took the opinion that supporting the anti-Iraqi coalition was extremely detrimental in terms of power politics. The Soviet Union was running the risk of losing its role as a major power and thus its influence in the Third World. This had above all been a war for the U.S.'s sole leadership role in the world; the party newspaper Pravda maintained during the final days of the war.

In fact, a new term was introduced to describe the new self-esteem of the U.S. following the Gulf war victory: "hyperpower." The new feeling of a hyperpower status would tempt some American politicians to put on airs and graces when dealing with the Soviet leadership. In order to counter this dangerous development the USSR would have to revive its self-confidence and sharpen its image as a superpower. Mr. Gorbachev's peace initiative was viewed in this light: for the first time since the outbreak of war the USSR had acted as a major power; Moscow had at long last spoken with an independent voice.

Implications of the Gulf conflict for Soviet-American relations

The Soviet leadership regards

the preservation of its world-power status as a serious challenge. Against the background of Soviet concern about a new balance of power following the Gulf war the question arises how this concern will affect the current state and future character of Soviet-American relations. Despite declarations to the contrary by Mr. Gorbachev and other Soviet politicians, adjustment in the Soviet foreign policy course were urged as inevitable immediately after Mr. Shevardnadze's resignation. During his first visit to Washington in January 1991 Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh said that the events in a number of "trouble spots," especially in the Persian Gulf, were casting a certain shadow on Soviet-American relations. Mr. Gorbachev described this relationship as fragile. After the end of the Gulf war Soviet analysts and commentators were convinced that the Soviet-American relationship was bound to take a turn for the worse.

The new partnership between the USSR and the U.S. proclaimed by Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev during the summit meeting in Helsinki in September 1990 was short-lived. Today, there tends to be talk in the Soviet Union about a return to a "normal rivalry" in relations. The undoubtedly effected foreign policy course adjustments became particularly apparent in the field of disarmament, in the violation of the CDE Agreement and the hardening of the Soviet position on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons START.

Following the Gulf, which clearly demonstrated the superiority of Western high-tech weapons, and following the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact a further hardening of the Soviet disarmament policy can be expected. Representatives of the Soviet military leadership openly declare that the USSR must maintain military parity with NATO as a whole and not just

the U.S. in the new international situation.

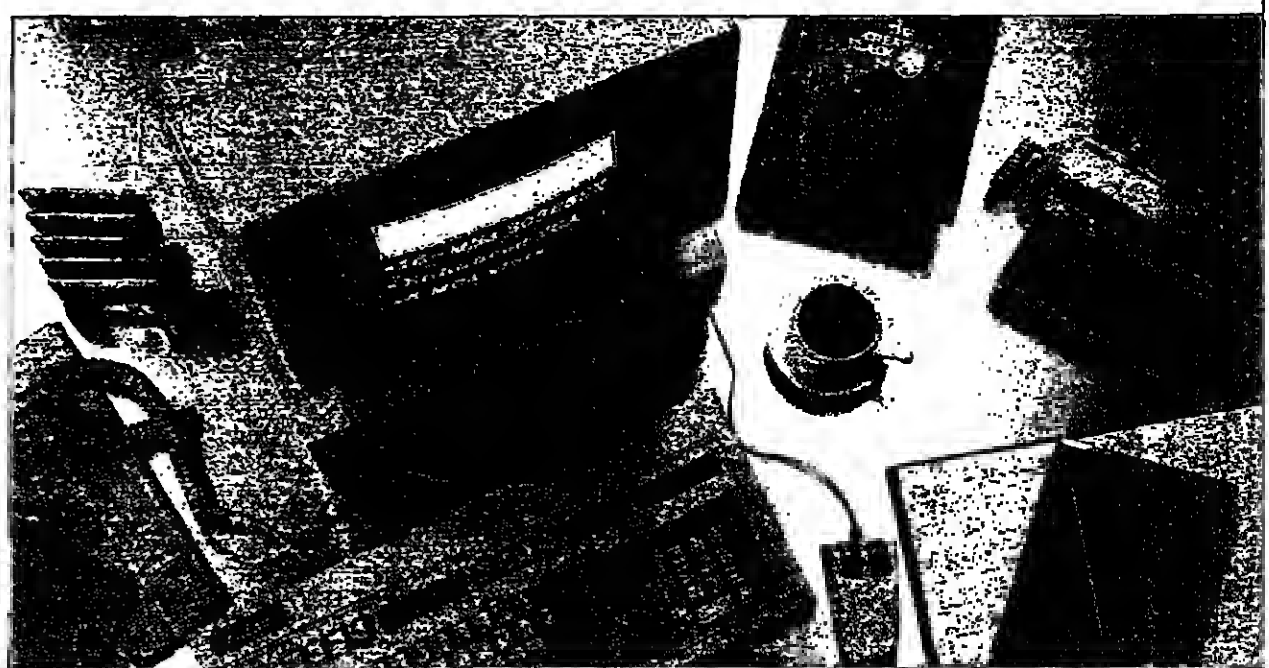
There are indications of attempts to re-ideologise Soviet foreign policy. The Soviet Defence Minister Yazov spoke of the Gulf war as a war with class character. In an article in the Pravda it was assumed that relations between the USSR and the U.S. would have to be based on the principles of peaceful coexistence.

The concept of "peaceful coexistence," however, was part of the vocabulary of the cold war and presupposes the existence of two antagonistic systems. Such notions are incompatible with a new cooperation and a new partnership with the West.

The following fields have become particularly problematic for the Soviet-American relationship: disarmament, the restorative development in the Soviet Union itself, and Moscow's reaction to the new balance of power after the end of the Gulf war. The domestic policy about-turn in the USSR, the clearly growing influence of the orthodox-reactionary forces — of the party apparatus, the military, the military-industrial complex and the KGB — made a dissociation from the policy of cooperation with the West, above all with the U.S., inevitable. Today, it is fair to claim that there is a genuine crisis in relations between Moscow and Washington.

This article was written before Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was ousted from power on Monday, Aug. 19, 1991. It appeared in the English edition of "Aussen Politik", a German foreign affairs review magazine issued in Hamburg. The writer is a scientific assistant at the Federal Institute for Soviet and International Studies in Cologne and an acknowledged expert on both the Soviet policy towards the U.S. and the domestic policy development in the Soviet Union.

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Developments in USSR purely internal Soviet affair — Ensour

(Continued from Page 1)

Q: Does Syria and Jordan agree that their participation in the conference is contingent on Palestinian representation?

A: Our position is very clear. We will attend within a joint delegation and we will not be attending (the conference) alone. We have also announced very clearly that the Palestinian component of the joint delegation will be named by the Palestinians. It is not for us to propose names, to accept or refuse names. It is up to the Palestinians themselves to do that and we will not interfere. We also will not interfere in their position, even after the conference starts. It is up to them to discuss the Palestinian problem. The Jordanian component will be discussing Jordanian-Israeli bilateral issues and not the Palestinian dimension (of the conflict).

Q: Did you receive Syrian support for the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?

A: The Syrians have made it clear again that they themselves will not interfere in the way the Palestinians are represented. They have nothing against a joint delegation or a separate delegation or any other formula, and they have made their position publicly clear. They also reiterated

their position during our meeting in the past two days. So there is no ambiguity.

Q: Chairman Arafat is expected here next week. Do you think that a memo of understanding would result after this meeting or is it just a continuation of contacts you have had before?

A: Mr. Arafat will come here with questions and proposals. Whether he will propose a memo of understanding or not, that is up to him. But our announced positions, our understanding of the peace process (that it has to be) a comprehensive peace plan and not a separate deal. This means that they (the Palestinians), the Jordanians and the Syrians have to agree to the final arrangements. How could this concept take place unless we understand right from the beginning the content and the operation of the peace process? Understanding and cooperation is a necessity. No doubt about that. Now, will that understanding be written, recorded or be transmitted orally? That will be left to the discussions that will start when (Mr. Arafat) arrives.

Q: Do we know the nature of the questions the PLO chairman will ask? As we understand it, the letter Jordan received last week from the Palestinian leadership was asking for assurances from Jordan on basic principles regarding the aims of the peace process and the make-up of the joint delegation?

A: Their problem is with the Israelis. It is the Israelis who have under their control all the occupied territories they have Jerusalem, they have (stamped) the rights of the Palestinians. So what the Palestinians need is a memo of understanding from the co-sponsors and not from Jordan. Jordan has made it very clear that it will not act on behalf of the Palestinians and it will not interfere in their attitudes towards the proposals.

Now if the conference takes place we will discuss Jordanian-Israeli bilateral relations. The Palestinian problems are with the Israelis. But how would the relation between the Palestinians and Jordanians be after and during the peace operation, that will be left to the meeting that is expected next week and this is very necessary.

Q: In an interview last week, the King spoke of a feeling that the Palestinians were ready to form a delegation to the conference. Did the Jordanians arrive at that feeling from concrete messages from the Palestinian leadership?

A: It is only a feeling. Until now we have not heard or discussed with

the Palestinians anything that has to do with names. So it is only a feeling and I do share that feeling. I think they (Palestinians) are discussing all possibilities including a list of names, but to discuss a list of names does not mean that they will attend. They are evidently preparing for a decision on this.

Q: Are we seeing better coordination among the Arab parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli peace talks?

A: I expect that after the Palestinians make their own position clear, a meeting of the four or five countries, the fifth being Lebanon, would take place on a certain level. They can start with ministers of foreign affairs and conclude in a summit. There is an agreement really between Syria and Jordan that such consultations, on each level, are necessary.

Q: Do you believe that a final format will be reached for a joint delegation during Chairman Arafat's visit here?

A: It depends. I do not know what Chairman Arafat will carry in his briefcase. It is left to him to propose or to refrain. I suppose there should be substance to his visit. I am sure that he has something to say, to announce or to ask. I really have no said information on this.

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Al Hussein bows to Al Wahda in Al Ramtha Arab Games

IRBID — Al Hussein team has suffered a double defeat in its first football match of the Ramtha Arab Tournament held at Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid. Al Hussein lost to the Syrian Al Wahda 1-0. The goal was scored in the 60th minute by Nizar Mahrus from a penalty kick. Towards the end of the match, Al Hussein defender Fayez Youssef and striker Aref Hussein both received the red card.

Jordan's Al Ramtha team defeated the Syrian Tishreen team 6-1 in the opening match of the tournament.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Rains wash out Stich match

SCHENECTADY, New York (R) — Second-seeded Sergi Bruguera rallied from one set down to oust Jason Stoltenberg after rain washed out several first-round matches including Wimbledon champion Michael Stich's at the \$250,000 OTB Open Tennis Tournament. Bruguera of Spain, ranked ninth, had a difficult time but persevered against Stoltenberg of Australia, winning 4-6, 6-2, 6-3. The match between third-ranked Stich and Mark Woodforde of Australia was rained out. Third-seeded Emilio Sanchez breezed through Dave Adams of Australia 6-4, 6-1. Fourth seed Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union and compatriot and fifth seed Alexander Volkov also advanced easily.

2 seeds, Shriver win in Washington

WASHINGTON (R) — Second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain and third-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez both posted easy straight set victories and then Fernandez spoke out on Monica Seles' withdrawal at the \$350,000 Virginia Slims of Washington. Sanchez-Vicario downed Regina Rajchrtova of Czechoslovakia 6-4, 6-4 in 66 minutes, and Fernandez needed 69 minutes to beat South African Mariana de Swardt 6-4, 6-1 in second-round matches in the 28-player draw. The top four seeds drew first-round byes. Seles of Yugoslavia withdrew after a miscommunicated phone message inadvertently placed her in the tournament as the top seed when the intent of the message was to inform officials she did not want to play. American Pam Shriver continued her successful comeback with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Elena Reinach of South Africa in a first-round match. Radka Zrubakova of Czechoslovakia beat Soviet Natalia Zvereva 6-1, 7-5.

Arsenal defeated 3-1 at Everton

LONDON (R) — English champions Arsenal, beaten only once in the league last season, crashed to a 3-1 defeat at Everton in their second game of the season Tuesday. Arsenal's defeat was their biggest in the league since October 1989 when Everton beat them 3-0. Mark Ward, Everton's new signing from Manchester City, scored twice on his home debut, his first coming three minutes into first-half injury time.

Morceli listed for 3 events in Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — Algerian middle-distance runner Noureddine Morceli played a guessing game with his opponents at the World Athletics Championships by putting his name forward in three events when the deadline for entries closed Tuesday. Morceli, favourite to win the 1,500 metres in the championships which start Saturday, was also entered in the 800 and 5,000 metres. If the 21-year-old Algerian ran in all three events and reached the finals he would be involved in a punishing programme of nine races in the nine-day championships, including the 1,500 and 5,000 metres finals on the closing day, Sept. 1. With no outstanding record over either the shorter or longer distance, Morceli was expected to concentrate on the 1,500 metres though there was speculation that he might use the 800 metres earlier in the programme as a warm-up. The tactic of entering several events was often used in the past by Moroccan Said Aouita, world 5,000 metres champion four years ago in Rome. But Aouita, who holds four world records over distances between 1,500 and 5,000 metres, made his intentions crystal clear this time by entering only the 1,500 metres.

NBA stars to play in Olympics

WASHINGTON (AP) — Magic Johnson and Patrick Ewing have formally committed to play on the 1992 U.S. Olympic basketball team, according to a published report Tuesday. USA Today reported that Johnson and Ewing are the only players on the USA Basketball Selection Subcommittee's 10-man wish list to respond. Others on the list are: Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, David Robinson, Charles Barkley, Karl Malone, John Stockton, Scottie Pippen and Chris Mullin. The newspaper reported that commitments are being sought from the players in advance of the formal selection, which is scheduled for Sept. 21.

IAAF doubles drug ban on day Johnson flies into Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) doubled its ban for serious doping offences to four years Wednesday on the day Ben Johnson flew into Tokyo for the Third World Championships.

Johnson, banned for two years after testing positive for an anabolic steroid at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, has returned to international competition this year.

The Canadian has been included in his country's sprint relay team although his form has slumped dramatically since he set world 100 metres records at the 1987 Rome World Championships and again in Seoul. Neither record is now recognized.

The final day of the IAAF's biennial congress voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to double the two-year ban for athletes tested positive for serious drugs such as steroids.

And British delegate David Bedford, a former world record holder over 10,000 metres, said he thought the large sums of money earned by Johnson this year had been a factor in the vote.

"The fact that Ben Johnson was able to return very quickly and be seen by the world to earn large sums of money I'm sure

influenced many athletes who thought the doping issue wasn't important," Bedford said.

Canadian athletics sources said they estimated Johnson had earned half a million dollars on the indoor circuit and nearly the same amount outdoors this year.

IAAF President Primo Nebiolo told a post-congress news conference the ban was intended to be a very serious sanction.

"We think that sanction will be a very great deterrent for athletes," Nebiolo said.

In its final deliberations Wednesday afternoon, the congress accepted a council resolution which would ensure the surface of the javelin remains completely smooth.

Finn Seppo Raty, the defending world champion, has set two world records this year with a javelin which has plastic tape added by the manufacturers.

Another manufacturer has deliberately roughened the surface in order to achieve greater length.

Bedford read a letter to the congress from Briton Steve Buckley, whose mark of 89.58 metres set in Stockholm last year is the furthest ever thrown by a javelin with a smooth surface.

In his letter Buckley argued the

case for a smooth surface, saying the distances now being thrown were getting close to the potentially dangerous marks set by the old javelin before the centre of gravity was changed in 1985.

The new regulation will come into force after the Barcelona Grand Prix final on Sept. 20.

But officials were unable to say if Buckley's mark will now be reinstated as the world record.

"It will be considered at the IAAF council meeting next Wednesday," Sweden's Carl-Gustav Tollmar, head of the IAAF Technical Committee, said.

The German city of Stuttgart will stage the fourth World Athletics Championships in 1993 following a vote by the IAAF Wednesday.

IAAF council member Istvan Gyulai of Hungary told a news conference that Stuttgart was the only candidate to host the 1993 championships while the Swedish city of Gothenburg was the only candidate for the 1995 competition.

In a separate development, pole vault world record holder Sergei Bubka flew in to Tokyo with a group of Soviet athletes Wednesday, ending doubts over

Soviet participation in the World Athletics Championships which start Saturday.

Bubka, widely expected to win his Third World pole vault title, was one of six Soviet athletes on an Aeroflot flight from Moscow.

The rest of the Soviet team, currently training in Vladivostok, are expected in Japan later Thursday at the latest.

There had been fears that the Soviet team would be unable to take part because of the political instability following Monday's overthrow of President Mikhail Gorbachev.

But Soviet Athletic Federation President Igor Ter-Ovanesyan told a news conference in Tokyo Tuesday he had contacted Moscow and the Soviet embassy in Japan and was sure the team would be able to take part.

The Soviet team of 136 athletes and officials is the third largest after the United States and Germany.

Bubka told Japanese television shortly after arriving: "There was no problem leaving the country."

Asked about Mr. Gorbachev's perestroika policy, he said: "I supported it as a whole. If there's a clash in Moscow, it will probably lead to civil war."

German women eclipsed at swimming championships

ATHENS (R) — After two decades of domination in the days of the east German state, German women swimmers failed to land a place in either of Wednesday's women's finals at the European Championships.

Troubled by illness and far from the force they were of old, they were reduced to the ranks of also-rans left to dispute the consolation B finals.

Defending champion Manuela Stellmach managed only 11th place overall in the 200 metres freestyle heats, while Kerstin Kielgass, fastest in Europe this year, had to pull out because of illness.

Kielgass, a European relay gold medalist in 1985, got up on Tuesday after four days in bed suffering from a high temperature and a stomach upset, a German swimming source said.

Her absence cost the now-united German team the gold medal in Tuesday's 4x200 freestyle relay as Heike Friedrich, a pale shadow of the world and Olympic champion she was, lost the lead and fully six seconds overall to Denmark's anchor swimmer Mette Jacobsen.

Stellmach, Kielgass's room mate, and also been confined to bed for two days with a high temperature which may have been caused by excessive air-conditioning in their room.

Jana Doerries, 15, a medalist at last January's World Championships in Perth, missed the 200 metres breaststroke final when she finished third in the last heat and ninth overall — one place and 0.10 seconds away from qualification.

Doerries, an ex-east German like her fellow sufferers, has had health problems since Perth where she won silver in the 100 breaststroke and bronze in the 200.

Western German Alexandra Haenel, the team's other women's 200 breaststroke swimmer, never made it to Athens after injuring her thigh in a cycling accident shortly before the team's departure.

After years in the shadow of the women swimmers, it was left to the men to uphold German honour, with Patric Kuehl leading qualifiers for the 100 metres individual medley final and fellow former east German Nils Rudolph second overall in the 100 butterfly heats. Germany also topped men's 4x200 freestyle relay qualifiers.

Kuehl, who won bronze in 1987 and silver in 1989, staked his claim for gold in the absence of world and Olympic champion Tamas Darnyi of Hungary, winning the opening heat in four minutes 20.70 seconds.

Ex-East German team mate Christian Gessner secured the third-best final qualifying time of 4:23.11, winning the last heat by a whisker from Italy's Olympic bronze medalist Stefano Battistelli. Italy's Luca Sacchi was second-fastest overall.

Rudolph won his 100 butterfly medal in 54.78, 0.13 seconds ahead of Spain's Martin Lopez Zubero, who broke the world record in the world 200 backstroke event last week.

Dutch player qualifies for world chess semis

BRUSSELS (R) — Jan Timman of the Netherlands became the first player to qualify for the semifinals of the World Chess Championship when he drew with the ex-Soviet Swiss Viktor Korchnoi in Brussels.

Timman played against Kor-

chnoi's Sicilian defence, gaining an advantage by the 15th move.

Korchnoi took full advantage of Timman's subsequent passive play, and had turned the tables by time control when he blundered. A draw was agreed on move 45.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY AUGUST 23, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This first day of Virgo finds the Moon squaring Pluto stirring emotions making people uneasy and revealing secrets. Jealousy is likely over the least likely thing so avoid getting into an undefeatable position.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A fine day for you to show that you do value the good will of business or personal contacts by some compliment or other form of expression.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make a point to get some new course of action in motion that can gain you the good will of those who are able to aid you to have much more.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Now you find that most everyone with whom you have any sort of contact is willing to go along with some personal things that you do want.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Listen to what those who are in the know have to privately suggest to you and you then will be able to make big headway towards preparations for the future.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think out a course whereby your friends and personal contacts will be more aware that you like them and are willing to go along with their ideas.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Now you are able to gain the headway that means the most to you so be sure to get in touch with powerful persons and let them know what you have in mind.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Now you find it is possible for you to show that you are the one who does value and appreciate the good will of new admirers who

have paid you little attention before.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can now make fine arrangements to handle any problems at all of whatever nature whether business or personal by your own intelligence.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can sit down with that associate now and come to a whole new understanding that can bring you much more harmony in your future plans.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have some pretty ingenious plan whereby you are able to gain the support of fellow associates who have been reluctant to give you what you need for success.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is the moment for you to show you have the patience and the interest to do what those of whom you are fond expect of you so be truly cooperative.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Think out a plan to give you best thought to how you can make your family happier and bring to them the interests that can engross them while you are absent.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he has deep seated urge to do those things that will bring you more cooperation for this child from others. Teach them to maintain an even keel instead of ricocheting from being considerate and pleasant to an individual that is angry and demanding. Expect this chart to work with the public.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
BY TAMAR HIRSCH
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North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 4 3
♥ A Q 10 5
♦ 10 4
♣ A 6 3 2

WEST EAST
♠ J 6 5 ♠ Q 7 3
♥ K J 8 4 2 ♥ 9 7 3
♦ 5 3 2 ♦ K 8 7 8
♣ J ♣ K 8 5 4

SOUTH
♠ A K 10 8 7 2
♥ Void
♦ A Q J 9
♣ Q 10 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♣ Dbl Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠.
Preemptive action is a two-way sword. While it can goad the opponents to impossible heights, it sometimes blunders the play for declarer.

West's preempt is typical of the loose style in tournament bridge—after all, it doesn't cost coin of the realm if you go down many hundreds of points. With so much wasted values in hearts and no great fit for spades, North's four-heart cue-bid is difficult to comprehend. And once having cue-bid, North should

have shown only one ace when responding to Blackwood to keep the auction from getting out of hand. South's bidding is also enigmatic—the long suit wasn't good enough to insist on a spade contract opposite unknown support.

West led the jack of clubs and declarer realized he was faced with an almost impossible assignment. Without the information provided by the bidding, declarer might well have allowed the jack of clubs to ride round to the queen, relying on the diamond finesse and a lucky position in trumps to bring home the bacon. Under the circumstances, however, the jack of clubs was quite likely to be a singleton, so declarer rose with the ace and ran the ten of diamonds. When that held, the diamond finesse was repeated before drawing two rounds of trumps.

Leaving the master trump outstanding, declarer cashed the ace of diamonds before leading the last diamond. West was a goner. If the defender ruffed, the forced heart return would give declarer a free finesse, enabling the two clubs to be shifted from the closed hand. But discarding a heart proved to be no better. Declarer ruffed the diamond in dummy, returned to hand by ruffing a low heart and then threw West in with the high trump to force a heart return and allow the finesse. Who lives by the sword, dies by the sword.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY AUGUST 22, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look at whatever is holding you back and either get it in perfect working order or else eliminate it so you are free of it to do better things.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is your time to spend your time with your friends as much as possible and to deepen any sort of casual acquaintanceship you may have.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make a point to show that you are the one who does understand what bigwigs expect of you as a good citizen and reap the rewards of conscientious civic understanding.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your need for more understanding from one who thinks differently can be gained if you make a point to study his views of what to do.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is your moment to actually pay those bills you have incurred and to show you have a deep sense of obligation and awareness of your duties.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever your partners desire of you should be taken very seriously and you would be wise to do something definite about getting what they want.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have every kind of interest in making your surroundings much

more attractive and you can also bring to the fore your own charm in new apparel.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your goal now is to make certain you please your close companions by some entertainment, amusement or whatever they get the greatest joy from.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Do the little things that will delight members of your own family or household and let them be aware that you are thinking of them.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have so many errands to do and it's such a good day to get them in back of you that you can start on early and continue until all done.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have all kinds of projects to be done on your property or your budget so lose no time but get at such and increase holdings and eliminate waste.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You now have some personal trials to do that are highly intimate and personal in their nature so get on with doing them and show you are able to please usual contacts.

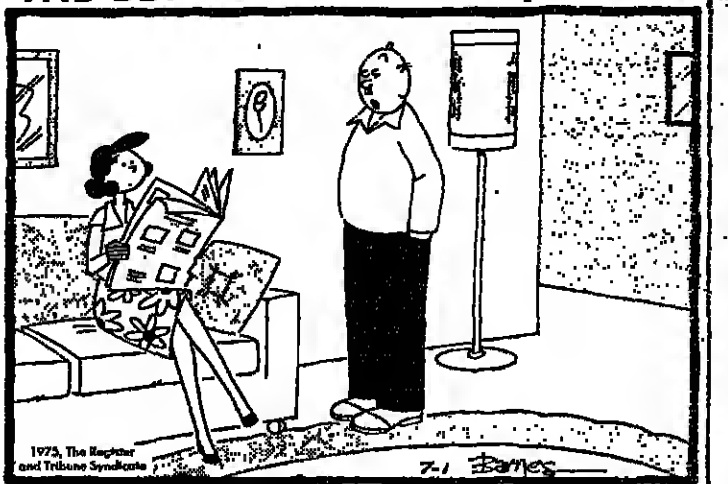
"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

1- Wedding present! Birth Stone

World Resources: Dagan & Co. Inc. American: Rio De Janeiro
Jewellers: Gertig Arruñan: Anna Hote: Str. cross

THE BETTER HALF

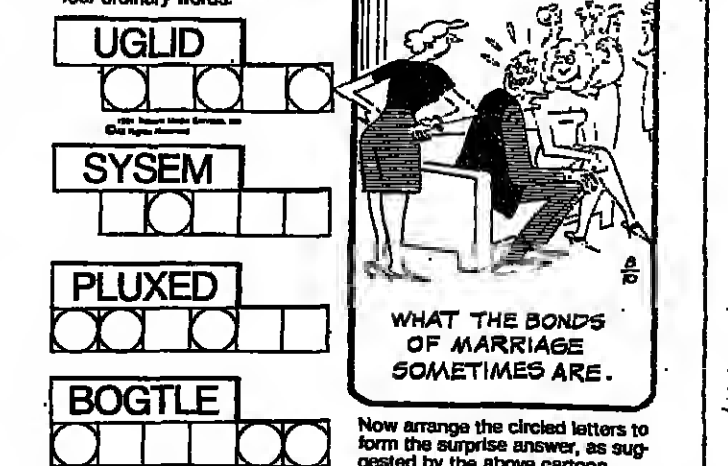
By Barnes



"Of course I'm right — mutual funds are monies deposited in joint bank accounts!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



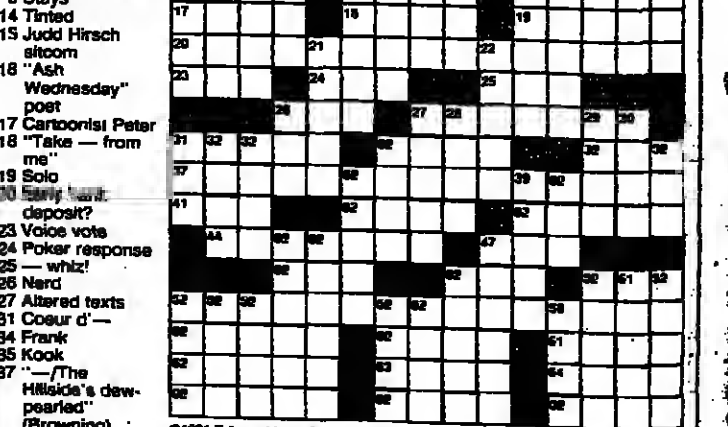
WHAT THE BONDS OF MARRIAGE SOMETIMES ARE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: "STILL IS A SECRET"

THE Daily Crossword

by Louis Sabin



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. H.H. Munro
2. 'Rosebud' e.g.
3. Stay
4. Titled
5. Judd Hirsch sitcom
6. 'Ash Wednesday' poet
7. 'Tale — from me'
8. Solo
9. 'Sally, Sally, Sally' deposit?
10. Voice vote
11. 24 Poker response
12. 'whiz!'
13. Altered texts
14. Colour d—
15. Frank
16. Kook
17. 'The Hunch of the Waverley' (Browning)
18. Lulu fare
19. Pitcher
20. Heretimer
21. Lovers' meeting
22. Makes safe
23. 8 ideal place
24. 10 Together
25. 11 Social success
26. 12 Chin, society
27. 13 Joanne d'Arc et al.
28. 21 Certain
29. 22 Bond or Smart
30. 23 Landers or
31. 24 Church parts
32. 25 Super e.g.
33. 26 Begridge
34. 27 Union income
35. 28 Elec. unit
36. 29 Author
37. 30 Canal
38. 31 Bad guy
39. 32 Raging supply
40. 33 Selling opera
41. 34 Hackneyed
42. 35 Screw up
43. 36 Sponged
44. 37 Sophisticated
45. 38 Composer
46. 39 Condition
47. 40 Gambling game
48. 41 Propensity
49. 42 Positive note
50. 43 Dartsive sound
51. 44 Tents were his line
52. 45 '— amia to
53. 46 Grump
54. 47 500
55. 48 Platform

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 20/8/1991	Tel Aviv Close Date: 21/8/1991
Sterling Pound	1.6482	1.6520
Deutsche Mark	1.7955	1.7855
Swiss Franc	1.5420	1.5407
French Franc	6.0895	6.0745
Japanese Yen	157.10	157.18
European Currency Unit	1.1440	1.1480

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.55	5.56	5.65	5.87
Sterling Pound	10.75	10.62	10.50	10.43
Deutsche Mark	9.06	9.12	9.31	9.37
Swiss Franc	7.87	7.81	7.75	7.66
French Franc	9.25	9.43	9.50	9.50
Japanese Yen	7.21	7.21	6.93	6.62
European Currency Unit	9.54	9.81	9.87	10.00

Gold

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	356.25	6.95	Silver	5.95	.095

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.692	.694
Sterling Pound	1.1366	1.1453
Deutsche Mark	.3851	.3876
Swiss Franc	.4475	.4500
French Franc	.1136	.1142
Japanese Yen	.5039	.5064
Dutch Guilder	.3408	.3425
Swedish Krona	.1064	.1069
Italian Lira	.0516	.0519
Belgian Franc	.01869	.01878

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Lebanese Lira	.0760	.0780
Saudi Riyal	.1840	.1845
Kuwaiti Dinar	.1875	.1886
Qatari Riyal	.2050	.2250
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.7650
UAE Dirham	.1875	.1886
Greek Drachma	.3400	.3600
Cypriot Pound	1.4100	1.4300

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	19/8/1991 Close	20/8/1991 Close
All-Share	108.08	107.56
Banking Sector	107.15	103.76
Insurance Sector	117.79	117.99
Industry Sector	115.56	114.68
Services Sector	126.84	126.66

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6540/50	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1418/23	Canadian dollar
	1.7800/20	Deutsche marks
	2.0040/60	Dutch guilders
	1.5415/25	Swiss francs
	36.75/80	Belgian francs
	6.0525/75	French francs
	1328/1329	Italian lire
	137.10/20	Japanese yen
	6.4850/10	Swedish crowns
	6.9710/70	Norwegian crowns
	6.8960/20	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	355.70/356.20	U.S. dollars

Soviet turmoil could mean big demand for Iraqi oil

NEW YORK (R) — Iraq, banned from selling oil since its invasion of Kuwait, could find buyers clamouring if supplies are disrupted by turmoil in the Soviet Union, analysts said Tuesday.

The world is facing a scarcity of oil production capacity as winter approaches, and analysts say Iraq is one of the few producers that could fill a shortage caused by strikes or civil war in the Soviet Union.

"The irony is that the only country with spare capacity is Iraq," said Mike Barry of Energy Market Consultants in London. "While the world's largest oil producer, has been falling for years, experts noted that the upheaval following the ouster of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Monday threatens to disrupt exports prior to the winter, when refiners build supplies for cold weather demand."

Siberian miners walked off their jobs Monday in response to a call by Russian leader Boris Yeltsin for a general strike and analysts said walkouts could spread to other sectors. So far, oil workers have stayed on the job. "If oil workers honour the call for a strike, there could be a

shortfall of Soviet output that would add to the pressure to permit Iraq to export more oil," said G. Henry Schuler at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, an American think-tank.

John Lichtblau of the U.S.-based Petroleum Industry Research Foundation said: "Soviet oil exports have been risky for some time...if there is a decline in Soviet exports, refiners may fear they have no place else to go to buy oil."

Soviet oil output in the first half of 1991 fell 10 per cent to 10.75 million barrels a day from a year ago while second-quarter exports of 2.8 million barrels daily were down almost 20 per cent from 1990, said the International Energy Agency, the West's energy watchdog.

Another potential threat for the Soviet Union is the location of key oil and natural gas export pipelines, analysts said. Many run through the Ukraine, an area echoing with strong nationalist and pro-democracy sentiment.

Normally, oil-rich nations in the Middle East could easily make up for any supply disruptions, but many are already producing fully and have limited

capacity. With many Kuwaiti oil wells still ablaze, experts say Iraq is the only producer that could fill a long-term supply gap.

Iraq pumped 3.2 million barrels a day before the Gulf war and Kuwait 1.9 million barrels. The experts said the Soviet oil situation has the potential for far greater supply consequences than Iraq's seizure of Kuwait. If Soviet exports were lost, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could not step in with extra oil.

Mr. Lichtblau said that if Iraq resumed oil exports under United Nations terms it may be just enough to meet the world call on OPEC to produce up to 24.5 million barrels a day during the peak winter demand season.

Last week, the United Nations approved a measure that would allow Iraq to sell about 500,000 barrels a day for six months to pay for food and medicine, but Iraq refused the terms.

Some analysts said that the Soviet coup may harden Iraq's resolve to cut a better deal with the United Nations. They estimated that Iraq could produce up to one million barrels a day fairly quickly.

U.S. businesses put Soviet ventures on hold

NEW YORK (R) — American business executives say Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's abrupt removal from office shows why U.S. companies have been so cautious about investing in the Soviet Union and puts on hold indefinitely plans for future ventures.

"Prospects for any major new business investments in the Soviet Union appear relatively slim," said Jeffrey Burt, partner in charge of Soviet ventures for Arnold Porter, a Washington law firm.

Mr. Gorbachev's campaign of perestroika, or restructuring, attracted plenty of interest among Western capitalists, but only a few made major financial commitments during his six-year tenure, largely because of the country's shaky economic and political situation.

Most U.S. companies with big ventures in the Soviet Union were in place well before Mr. Gorbachev rose to power and have limited their financial risk by minimising their capital investment.

Pepsico Inc., for example, opened its first bottling franchise in the Soviet Union in 1974 and last year signed a 10-year, \$3 billion deal under which it will continue to supply soft drink syrup to exchange for Stolichnaya Vodka.

"It is clearly too early to know what, if any, impact this will have on our business," said Keo Ross, director of Pepsico.

Mr. Burt said some companies have political risk insurance for their investments in the Soviet Union, but those typically pay off only if the government appropriates property.

Companies that have ventured into the Soviet Union typically have limited their cash outlay to less than \$10 million, according to Mr. Burt and others.

"Our approach in general has been a very cautious one," said Paul Konney, senior vice president of Tambrands Inc., which opened a tampon plant in a venture with the Ukrainian ministry of health in 1989. "We've limited our investment and limited our expansion because it is to some extent an unstable environment."

"Any company going into the Soviet Union does so knowing that it faces more than ordinary business risks," said Randall Tobias, vice chairman of American Telephone Telegraph Co. (ATT).

ATT, which has been working with Soviet authorities to try to the country's antiquated communications system, had planned to open an office in Moscow soon, but those plans have been put on hold.

Occidental Petroleum Corp., long associated with the Soviet Union because of activities there by its late chairman Armand Hammer, has no investments in the country, said Frank Ashley, vice president of communications.

Soviet crisis stirs worries over recovery in eastern Germany

BERLIN (R) — Mikhail Gorbachev's fall from power has put eastern Germany's economic recovery in doubt, since the region's industry relies heavily on orders from the Soviet Union.

"A shadow has certainly fallen over the east German economy," said Peter Sigmund, a trade expert at the IAW research institute in Berlin.

Former East Germany's economy collapsed last year when it was merged with the west's in the run-up to unification.

Its slow recovery is due in large part to huge injections of government aid, including generous export credits for trade with the Soviet Union.

Economists estimate that between 200,000 and 500,000 jobs in eastern Germany still depend on trade with Moscow.

The region can ill-afford to lose jobs. It already has a real unemployment level of nearly 40 per cent due to a shake-out of inefficient state-owned companies as they adapt to a market economy.

But the jobs would be vulnerable if Bonn were to freeze export guarantees because of the new Soviet crisis.

Battle for BCCI in Jordan heats up

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The race to acquire the Jordan operations of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) has been narrowed to five Jordanian institutions, with three of them in pursuit of the bonus of the commercial banking licence involved in the deal.

Eight Jordanian banks and institutions were invited to bid for the three branches of the BCCI in Jordan, but three of them bowed out last week saying they were not interested.

That left two commercial banks — the Jordan National Bank and the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) — and three investment institutions — the Jordan Investment Bank, the Union Bank for Investments and the Business Bank — in the field.

The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), which took over BCCI Jordan in early July and appointed a panel to supervise the local operations of the internationally troubled bank, has set Aug. 25 as the deadline for submission of offers for the three BCCI branches in the Kingdom.

The five left in the field are studying an auditors' report on the status of the BCCI in Jordan. The report is described as highly positive by sources familiar with the document who say that it has clearly underlined the sound

financial status of BCCI in Jordan.

"The sound position of the bank is behind non-Jordanian Arab interest in acquiring BCCI Jordan," said an official source. "But in all probability the bank will be sold to a local party."

While the Jordan National Bank and ABC already have commercial banking licences, any successful bidder for the BCCI branches will have the additional benefit of the commercial licence of the BCCI, banking circles noted.

"Definitely the offers of the three investment corporations will be higher than that of the commercial banks," said one senior banking executive.

One of the essential components of any bid, as sought by the CBJ, is an undertaking that none of the 90 or so employees at the BCCI branches would be dismissed during the first one year and that all their employment benefits are guaranteed under the acquisition deal.

The CBJ, which has been steadily following a policy of trying to limit the number of commercial banks in Jordan, is known to favour selling the BCCI operations to an already existing Jordanian bank.

"Only if none of the five comes up with an acceptable offer, the CBJ will consider its option of selling BCCI to either a new Jordanian entity or a foreign

buyer," said a banking source.

Non-Jordanian Arab approaches to acquire BCCI have been put in the backburner by the CBJ pending the outcome of its first option offer to local banks," added the source, who preferred anonymity.

Bankers credit the CBJ for having foreseen the international collapse of the BCCI and ordering BCCI Jordan in April this year to transfer all of its foreign exchange accounts to the CBJ, thus ensuring BCCI liquidity and protecting public funds in the Kingdom regardless of its deep troubles elsewhere.

Close to JD 15 million have already been withdrawn from the BCCI Jordan accounts under limited withdrawals permitted by the CBJ since the takeover.

Total deposits remaining with BCCI Jordan are worth around JD 50 million — including foreign currency accounts — and advances and loans due to the bank total JD 21 million.

BCCI officials say that the bank's liabilities are adequately covered on the assets side and that the outstanding dues to the bank carry strong collateral and guarantees.

International BCCI liabilities do not cover the bank's Jordan operations and assets under the standing CBJ regulations applicable to all commercial banks in the Kingdom regardless of their ownership or operations abroad.

Soviet bank faces problems due to Western panic over coup

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet bank for foreign economic affairs, responsible for servicing the country's debt, said Wednesday it faced problems because of unjustified Western panic over this week's political turmoil.

A day after issuing a statement assuring creditors it was fulfilling debt repayment obligations, Vneshekonombank said foreign financial institutions were jeopardising its finances.

"Tanks or no tanks, we have not stopped our operations or declared any moratorium," a bank spokesman said.

The Soviet Union has a foreign debt of about \$60 billion and service requirements this year have been put at about \$12 billion.

Vneshekonombank has a reputation as a prompt and reliable payer. But the country's overall creditworthiness has suffered due to months of political and economic chaos and a problem with non-payment of commercial debt.

Monday's removal of President Mikhail Gorbachev by a group of hardline communists has alarmed foreign bankers and investors,

who in recent months were growing more optimistic about the prospects for market reforms.

Vneshekonombank spokesman Vladimir Sterikov stressed that the bank was continuing to fulfil its obligations. "We try to distance ourselves from political activities," he said.

He repeated allegations made in Tuesday's statement that some Western banks and financial institutions were blocking payments into the Soviet bank's accounts in Europe.

"The banks themselves know who is responsible. What can we do about it? We cannot stand by them with machine-guns and force them to meet their obligations," he said.

Mr. Sterikov said the problem was due to fear of what was going on inside the Soviet Union and a misunderstanding of Vneshekonombank, which he said was also a commercial bank in addition to performing the function of state debt servicing.

"Because of some kind of fear, an incorrect interpretation of these events on our banking activity, they have blocked their activity, creating certain difficulties for us. And then they will say — Vneshekonombank is not paying," he pointed out.

The Soviet central bank Gorbachev said Tuesday that it was suspending the sale of hard currency to private citizens travelling abroad.

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CONCORD

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PRINCIPAL

Show: 5:10, 8:30 p.m.

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Sean Connery & Christopher Lambert...In HIGH LANDER II

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30.

NUOUM

To Be Opened Soon
Nabil Mashini Theatre

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

RAINBOW

FAST FOR WORD

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

